

STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE



Thursday, April 4, 2013

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All that glitters

Mike makes sure there are no costume dramas

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Tributes paid

Death of innovator who helped change farming

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Glassboys

Goals boost hopes of place in the play-offs

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Chief says parking is no priority over crime

A POLICE chief has pledged not to "prioritise" parking enforcement in Hagley despite regular complaints.

Superintendent Kevin Purcell, responsible for North Worcestershire, said officers would not be "side-tracked" from more serious issues to tackle the problem.

He told Hagley's annual parish meeting officers would continue to focus on crime - not parking, litter and dog mess.

"We could put staff on Hagley High Street and bring parking perfection to the town but I don't think that's what most people would really want," he said.

"If my officers come across (bad parking) they'll deal with it but they will not be sidetracked by it. I've seen communities destroyed by parking enforcement to the point where struggling shops struggle even more."

He said two people regularly came in to complain about badly-parked cars.

However, the greatest risk to safety was the number of hours officers spent indoors, rather than out on the beat.

"The biggest threat to policing is the amount of time my staff spend indoors answering questions about what they're doing instead of getting out and doing it."

"We could spend a considerable amount of time doing what those few people want us to do or we could do what you need," he added.

Farmers to hold market

A FARMERS' market will be held in Hagley for the first time to promote local produce. It will be staged by the Worcestershire Farmers' Market Group at Webbs Garden Centre, Kidderminster Road South, on Sunday from 10am until 2pm.

Markets will now be staged at the centre on the first Sunday of every month.

Chairman Craig Thornton said he was looking forward to the launch and added all of the produce will be locally produced. "We have a great range of goods on offer," he said.

NIGHTMARE FEARS OVER ROADWORKS

by Andrew Turton

A MAJOR roadworks scheme causing up to 18 weeks of disruption on roads around Merry Hill shopping centre has been branded a "nightmare" for motorists by a senior councillor.

Work by South Staffordshire Water on a £250,000 project to replace underground water pipes has already been blamed for causing jams on other neighbouring routes. The work in Brierley Hill will result in the five-week closure of part of Deeley Street and a lane closure on the main dual carriageway Thorns Road for two weeks.

Homes plan for former factory site

ALMOST 100 homes will be built on the site of a former factory in Brierley Hill under new plans lodged with council chiefs.

Derelict buildings on land off Delph Road will be demolished by Orchard Park Properties Ltd, if the development is approved.

Developers say life will be breathed into the site with plans for 96 one to five-bedroom homes which have gone to Dudley Council. The site has been empty for several years and buildings are said to be in a state of disrepair. There is also a redundant car park and loading area.

A statement, submitted by agent David Leadbetter, says proposals provide a high quality residential development incorporating a mix of types, styles and size of houses including the affordable homes on site.

"The 96 dwellings proposed incorporate a mix of house types ranging from 1 bed properties to 5 bed family homes," he adds.

Main access to the site, near the Stourbridge Canal will be from Delph Road. Plans will be considered within the next three months and nearby households and firms have been consulted on the proposals.

In 2010, Marcity Developments and Accord Housing submitted plans to build 96 homes on a site off Delph Road.

The firm said plans were a response to demand for more affordable homes but the application was later withdrawn.

Increased traffic near Merry Hill on the A491 and on Thorns Road down towards Lye has already been reported since the works started on Good Friday.

Ward Councillor Liz Walker said the works were "beyond a joke" coming so close to the recent bad weather which has already caused numerous potholes.

"It will be chaos and it has got to the stage where we seem to have constant running road works in this area which are ruining the roads," she said.

"It makes life difficult as there will be delays but also the roads are being damaged again."

But South Staffordshire Water today said the works were key to securing the water supply to homes and businesses in the area.

Show

One lane will be closed in Thorns Road between Acres Road and Mount Pleasant.

There will be no entry into Acres Road and Thornhill Road from Thorns Road for around the next fortnight.

Deeley Street, near the Corn Exchange pub, will be partially closed for about five weeks from May 13 from the junction with Amblecote Road.

Temporary traffic lights will be in use in Amblecote Road from May 13 until the beginning of August.

South Staffordshire Water acting managing director Keith Marshall said: "We would like to apologise for any disruption the work will cause."

"However, these £250,000 improvement works are necessary and will secure the water supply in this area for many years to come."

Felicity sings way to semi-final



Felicity Cox reflects on making it through to the semi-finals of the Teen Star event

A TEENAGE singer from Stourbridge will compete against fellow hopefuls from around the country after making it through to the semi-final of a competition.

Felicity Cox wowed judges at the Birmingham NEC to earn her place in the next round of the popular Teen Star event.

And now the 13-year-old, of Rufford Road, will travel to Huddersfield to perform in the semi-final of the competition on May 26.

The event will be held at Huddersfield Town Hall and Felicity will pit her singing skills against hopefuls from other regions, including Manchester and Liverpool.

She had not yet decided what song she will perform at the event. The youngster performed Skinny Love, originally by Birdy, at the last stage of the competition.

Her father Paul said everyone was very proud of Felicity and her achievements.

"We are really looking forward to the next stage of the competition," he said. "Felicity has entered other events in the past and has done extremely well," he said.

"At the moment she is still deciding what to sing in the competition. We will be looking at three or four songs over the next few weeks and picking the best one."

Pursue

Mr Cox said that his daughter, who attends the Redhill School, Junction Road, Stourbridge, had first started singing around three years ago.

A YouTube post of Felicity singing an Eva Cassidy song received high praise when Eva's sister got in touch saying how much she had enjoyed it.

Mr Cox said: "Felicity likes singing all kinds of songs. I know she wants to pursue the arts as a career in the future."

Jewellery was used to identify widow, 64

A WIDOW who died in a fire was identified by the jewellery she wore.

Maureen Shepherd, aged 64, was dead in her bed after a fire at flats at Baylie Court, Green Street, Stourbridge.

She was a jewellery polisher before retiring and it was jewellery she wore by which her family identified her, said Black Country coroner Robin Balmain.

Three chains, two pendants and three rings she wore were recognised. A recent hip replacement matched medical records.

Mr Balmain told a Smethwick inquest Mrs Shepherd lived alone but was visited by carers - one visiting three hours before the fire.

She smoked about 100 cigarettes a week, he said.

"The fire originated in her bedroom and she was found in bed deceased. She had previously set fire to her bedding but managed to put it out herself."

Fire, ambulance and police went to the flats, off Stourbridge Ring Road, after a call at about 10am on March 22 and found a fire in the living room of the tenth-floor flat and had to break in.

The main entrance to the 15-storey block was sealed off for more than three hours as investigations were carried out.

Mr Balmain adjourned the inquest to a date to be fixed for more tests and further investigations.

Maria wants time for tea

A BUSINESS woman from Stourbridge has bought one of Bridgnorth's best-known buildings for more than £275,000 and hopes to open it to the public for the first time in years.

Maria Allen said the Elizabethan Bishop Percy's House, once home to George III's Royal Chaplain, would be restored and she would like to turn the Grade I listed building into a tea-room, museum and flats. Ms Allen, who has property renovation company, said she was excited about her plans.



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Busy apprentice Kerry's awards recognition



Kerry Hyland

WORKING mum and part-time soldier Kerry Hyland was one of the best female apprentices over the age of 25 at the Women in Construction Awards.

Kerry, aged 29, is an electrical installation apprentice at Stourbridge College after a switch from retail and hospitality. She funded herself through a City & Guilds level two course

in electrical installation and secured an electrical apprenticeship at The Community Housing Group to finish a level three course one day a week.

At the awards Kerry, of Stourport-on-Severn, was a finalist in Best Apprentice/New Starter aged 25 and Over.

She said: "I have a busy and hectic lifestyle, looking after my

11-year-old daughter, working full time, studying as well as being a member of the Territorial Army during the evenings and at weekends.

"I wanted a career that would be physically and mentally challenging and I always push myself to achieve more. More women should look at working in construction and I'm really

pleased that my efforts have been recognised nationally at the Women in Construction Awards."

Her assessor at the college employer training arm, Nigel Sidwell, said: "Kerry has been unwavering in her determination to master new areas of work and has demonstrated this by her achievements at college."

Hospital is planning gym to aid staff and patients

DUDLEY'S Russells Hall Hospital is planning to build a gym for patients and staff.

Thousands will be spent on installing equipment on the site off Pensnett Road. Patients recovering from illnesses or operations will be able to use the gym as part of their rehabilitation.

Staff will be able to demonstrate suitable exercises for them to do which will benefit their conditions.

Hospital workers will also be able to use the equipment during their breaks. Plans for the gym have been submitted to Dudley Council and will be considered in the coming months.

It would be built on land to the left of the accident and emergency department and education centre.

Include

Once permission has been granted, hospital bosses will secure funding for the development.

It is not yet known exactly how much it will cost but the gym is expected to include equipment such as a cross-trainer, ski machine, leg press and hand bike.

Paula Clark, chief executive of Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the site, said: "The Dudley Group is committed to providing excellent occupational health initiatives for staff and encourages them to take exercise in the workplace."

"The trust has applied for planning permission from Dudley Council to build an outdoor gym at Russells Hall Hospital for use by hospital staff and patients."

"It would be accessible at all times and allow staff to exercise before and after work as well as during their lunch time."

"The gym would also provide a 'step down' rehabilitation facility for patients."

Fire bid horse rescued

TWO horses, one which was doused in diesel and petrol and narrowly avoided being set alight by yobs, are among the latest strays rescued in Dudley borough.

Welfare officers from Equine Emergency Services working on behalf of Dudley Council rescued the young colt from land in Sedgley after residents raised the alarm. A spokeswoman for the firm said the young colt was battling back to health. A second horse was rescued from Wallows Road, Pensnett.

Colourful course in creativity



Tutor Pascale Bigot with Anita Leonard and other class members at the art class at the Talbot Hotel

COLOURFUL vases and jewellery will be among the different clay artworks made on a new art course in the Black Country.

French artist Pascale Bigot is behind the sessions which are run at the Talbot Hotel, Stourbridge High Street, and will start on Tuesday, April 16.

She will explore different techniques using polymer clay as a material during the 10-week course. Mrs Bigot, aged 50, is known in the town for her regular exhibitions of her pastel artwork often displayed at her home in Worcester Street.

She runs courses using different materials at venues across the borough for Dudley Council including Pensnett Community Centre.

"The people who come sometimes have never done any art at all and they get the chance to discover a new skill," Mrs Bigot said.

"When they come back the next time they talk

about how they have shown their work to friends and family and they find it very rewarding and feel proud to have something to show from it."

"The course is all about trying something a bit different than the usual watercolours and learn something that is more unique to them."

Settled

Mrs Bigot moved to London from France around 19 years ago with her husband Bruno and after a couple of years they settled in Stourbridge.

There is a charge of around £60 for the complete 10-week course but people are asked to book in advance before attending.

The course will run from April 16 on Tuesdays between 12pm and 2pm.

For more details email Mrs Bigot on pascalebigot11@gmail.com or call 01384 444939. Discounts are available.

Brothel is closed down by the police

POLICE have shut down a brothel in a quiet Coseley residential street after neighbours regularly spotted scantily-clad men and women inside a house.

Officers raided the end-of-terrace property in Flavell Street and handed a notice to a 20-year-old woman, ordering the occupants to stop using the house as a sex business.

Neighbours spoke of their relief at the police action and said they hoped it would bring an end to the nuisance behaviour which has plagued the street for two months.

Linda and Bernard Thomas live opposite the address and said they saw men regularly pull up outside the house before being invited in by a woman.

As well as seeing semi-naked people inside the home, they also faced noise disturbances throughout the night and problems of cars pulling up and blocking the road.

Police handed the notice, issued under the Sexual Offences Act, on March 26 at 6.30am.

Sgt Jim Jones said: "We received calls from the local residents who had concerns about the address."

Snowballs stop buses

SNOWBALL fights have been escalating out of control in some parts of the region, with car windscreens damaged, buses being taken off their runs and police investigations launched.

Two buses have been put out of service recently because youngsters threw snowballs at windscreens.

Former Gornal councillor David Stanley said: "It's intimidating and terrifying for the drivers."

National Express West Midlands spokesman Jack Kelly said: "During bad weather conditions and school closures, we do experience problems with objects being thrown at our vehicles."

Taxi firm is best

A TAXI firm in Dudley has been voted the borough's best. Castle Cars, Wolverhampton Street, has won the taxi base of the year award for 2013 from the council. It amassed 66 nominations out of 317 votes cast during January and February.

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270 sign takeaway petition

MORE than 270 people have signed two petitions against plans to open a pizza shop in Halesowen.

Proposals for the business have been submitted for an empty shop in the Hurst Green Shopping Centre. But the application lodged with Dudley Council has divided the community with many people voicing their support for the takeaway.

Those who have commented on the scheme include local ward councillors, adjoining businesses and nearby residents.

The council's planning officers have since recommended councillors give approval to the applicant after concluding the takeaway was an acceptable use of the shop and it would not cause disturbance.

The shop is one of six stores along the 1950s parade and has been empty since closing as a farm shop a year ago.

The proposal states the takeaway would be open daily from 9pm to 10pm. Two petitions containing 275 signatures objected to the proposal, raising concerns over potential disturbance and existing number of food outlets in the area.

A decision was due on Tuesday.

SVR will get new depot

THE building of a £300,000 diesel depot for the Severn Valley Railway is set to begin later this year.

Wyre Forest District Council have cleared the way for the start of work on the depot which will enable maintenance work to be carried out undercover.

Foundations for the building are expected to be put in the autumn and the facility will be completed in two phases at the railway's yard in Kidderminster.

Since the late 1970s the railway's diesel-owning groups have been forced to carry out maintenance of locomotives in the open.

The railway's fleet of privately-owned diesels has expanded over the years.

4G for borough

MOBILE phone firm EE has launched superfast 4G coverage in Dudley and West Bromwich. EE is the new 4G brand, and it also runs the Orange and T-Mobile brands in the UK. It is the only provider in the UK to offer the service.

Man let his shed be used to make fake discs

A DUDLEY man allowed a counterfeit DVD and CD operation to be run from his garden shed, a court heard.

The highly organised racket had been based in Ace Disks in the town centre but it was closed down after a raid by police and Trading Standards officers.

Stephen Miles, aged 48, had been seen in the High Street premises, and it was discovered that the disc copying operation had been moved to the outbuilding in his garden, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Behind a false wall in the shed, investigators found a bank of machines burning

off 36 pirated copies at a time, and piles of counterfeit discs had been stored, together with covers for the DVDs and CDs.

Judge Michael Dudley told Miles it was "extremely serious commercial counterfeiting" and normally prison sentences were imposed because of the huge losses suffered by the copyright owners. He said the public also suffered because of the quality of the copies, while artists on the CDs were also not getting any royalties.

A large number of jobbing actors, said the judge, suffered because they had to find other work when money that could

have been used to fund future productions was not available. He said Miles had got involved when the counterfeiting operation in the shop was closed down, adding: "I do not accept that you did not make very much money from what you did."

But it is the loss to others that makes this grave offending."

Miles, of Rosewood Road, Dudley, admitted two charges of aiding and abetting others involved in the operation, and he was given an eight-month jail term suspended for two years.

Mr Christopher O'Gorman, defending, said Miles, who was further put on super-

vision for two years, had given his permission for the copying to take place in his shed for only a few weeks.

There is no evidence of any financial gain, he added, although Miles - said to have medical problems - accepted that his involvement ended with the intervention of the investigating agencies.

Sameer Hussein, of Woodland Street, Smethwick, who ran Ace Disks, was jailed at an earlier hearing for three years after a court was told he had pirated more than 40,000 DVDs and CDs from the "sophisticated" scam he ran in the shop.

£240,000 fuel duty fraud man to pay back £42,000

A DUDLEY businessman who dodged up to £242,000 in fuel duty by illegally selling kerosene as road fuel has been ordered to repay £42,000.

Gavyn Roger Jewkes, aged 34, had admitted making 20p a litre selling the kerosene to cash-strapped Dudley motorists between May 2008 and July 2011. About 400,000 litres of the heating oil kerosene was sold.

Last week at Wolverhampton Crown Court, Mr Recorder Richard Bond found Jewkes had remaining assets of £42,000 that were found to be the benefit from his crime.

He ordered this amount be repaid by September 26 or Jewkes will have to serve 15 months' in jail instead.

Jewkes was sentenced earlier this year at Shrewsbury Crown Court, where it was heard the fuel racket had been started by Jewkes's late father but queues had formed outside the "unofficial fuel depot" at Dudley's Central Trading Estate in Shaw Road as word spread.

The business had never had a licence to sell kerosene which, unlike diesel, does not have duty on it and can damage vehicle engines.

Jewkes was selling the fuel at around £1 a litre while real diesel was being sold at up to £1.37.

Police had caught up with

by Sharon Marris

Jewkes after vehicles coming from the estate were stopped and found to have fuel in their tanks for which duty had not been paid, prosecutors said.

Jewkes, of Claydon Road, Dudley, had accepted responsibility for some of the evasion, arguing he only took charge of the firm after his father died in 2010.

He admitted being involved in fraudulently evading duty and was sentenced to 12 months in prison, which was suspended for two years as well as 240 hours unpaid work.

At the time, Judge Robin Onions told him: "The business was in part illegal. You knew what was going on and you played your part with your father."

The judge had directed a not guilty verdict on Jewkes's partner Emma Jones, 33, also from Claydon Road, who had denied the charge.



Front, parks activity activator Tom Weaver, with middle left to right, group member Lyn Turberville, from Wordsley, and Dudley Stroke Association Development Officer Roger Edwards preparing for the 5k challenge at The Dell Stadium

Running up funds to boost charity

FUNDRAISERS are under starter's orders ready for a fun 5k challenge to raise cash for those recovering from strokes.

People who attend Dudley Stroke Association's weekly fitness classes at the Dell Stadium, Pensnett, Brierley Hill, have helped organise the challenge.

Money raised from the free event on April 10 will go to charity. The event will be started by the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Melvyn Mottram.

The mayor has nominated Dudley Stroke Association as one of his charitable causes during his time in office. Anyone can take part and complete any distance they feel able to do during the day, which starts from 10am.

Charity trustee Anne Adams said it was the first time the association had organised such an event and paid tribute to fitness class members who came up with the idea.

She added: "People can do as much or as little of the walk as they like. The message is life goes on after a stroke and its something we believe in." For entry details, call 01384 271982 or visit www.dudleystrokeassociation.org.uk

NEWS in brief

Volunteers call to help festival

DEDICATED volunteers responsible for organising one of the region's biggest arts festivals is looking for more people to help out behind the scenes.

Bewdley Festival has been running for nearly 26 years and was originally launched with the objective of showcasing everything the town had to offer and bringing in big names.

Spokesman David Collins said: "We are always searching for new people." To get involved call 01299 404808 or email admin@bewdleyfestival.org.uk.

Profits are hit at B&Q parent firm

B&Q owner Kingfisher saw record wet weather punch a £25 million hole in its profits for 2012, with sales continuing to slide.

The weak pound also cost the group £39m as it lost money converting from euros and zlotys from overseas stores.

As a result, pre-tax profits were down 11.4 per cent to £715m as sales, not including stores open less than a year, fell 2.4 per cent to £10.6 billion.

The B&Q chain saw sales in the UK and Ireland fall two per cent.

Former students wanted for film

FORMER students at City of Wolverhampton College's Paget Road campus are wanted to share their memories in a documentary celebrating the 50th birthday of the site.

The college wants anyone who has studied at the campus since 1962 particularly former students who went on to work in their studied subject. To take part in the film call 01902 317646 or email mediacove@wolvcol.ac.uk

Talks on saving modern buildings

TALKS will be held in Dudley on preserving 20th century architecture in the West Midlands.

They will be held at Dudley Zoo on April 18.

The event runs from 9.30am to 3.45pm, and places cost £25 each and include refreshments, lunch and entry to Dudley Zoo. Call 07771 458119.

Music and poetry

AN evening of music and poetry will be held at a Kidderminster pub on April 9. The Mouth and Music event will see poet Ddotti Bluebell perform at the Boar's Head, Worcester Street from 8pm.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



DAVID Miliband is quitting British politics to become president and chief executive of the International Rescue Committee which is apparently in New York. Own up. How many of us thought it was based on Tracy Island?

□□□□□□□□

ED MILIBAND says the political scene will be "a poorer place" without his brother David. This is the same Ed Miliband who stabbed David in the back to get the Labour leadership. "Breath-taking gall" doesn't even begin to describe it.

□□□□□□□□

TALKING of warring families with a tendency to impale each other on sharp objects, I was at Stratford this week for a memorable Hamlet starring Jonathan Slinger as the Dane. There aren't many laughs in it but the one about the Brits never fails. Hamlet appears to be going mad and his stepfather packs him off to England. Why England? The gravedigger explains: "He shall recover his wits there; or, if he do not, it's no great matter (because) there the men are as mad as he."

□□□□□□□□

A SCHOOL in Essex has banned triangular flapjacks after one was thrown, hurting a pupil. A reader says this should be only the beginning of the campaign to stamp out three-sided foodstuffs: "What about Dairy Lea segments, Toblerone and those green chocolate triangles in Quality Street? Lethal."

□□□□□□□□

ALTERNATIVELY, perhaps the school could try to do something to prevent its pupils from throwing food at each other. Go on, call me a rabid old reactionary.

□□□□□□□□

MEANWHILE, back at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, traditional applause was drowned out by some theatregoers whooping while others whistled through their fingers or stood up and clapped with arms fully extended, blocking the view of those behind. It is selfish, show-offish and quite unnecessary for there is nothing more potent at the end of a great show than the mighty crescendo of 1,000 pairs of hands. Perhaps the whoopers and whistlers would be happier following baseball.

□□□□□□□□

A 14-YEAR-OLD girl is savaged to death by four dogs and the old, old cry goes up: "It's not the breed, it's the owners." So why was no-one surprised when we heard that the breeds in this tragedy were bull mastiffs and Staffordshire bull terriers?

□□□□□□□□

NURSES are to be taught how to nurse. A nation rejoices. But while it may seem commonsense to put trainee nurses on wards and teach them the basics of feeding, washing and toilet care, there is one problem. It is the worrying fact that a certain percentage of the population are not caring people. And as anyone in the NHS will tell you, a number of these people, who should never be allowed within a mile of sick and vulnerable people, somehow gravitate into the medical profession, both on the wards and in management. They are brusque and unkind. But above all they are bullies and they can quickly browbeat and corrupt younger, better health workers. While the latest back-to-basics scheme is to be commended, it will not produce kinder wards until NHS bosses deal with the bullies.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star



Mike with another dancer during the 1970s



Mike, right, in comedian Les Dawson's house



Mike, middle row, next to Tracy Ullman

Mike makes sure there are no costume dramas

WHILE most boys want to be professional footballers when they grow up, like film character Billy Elliot, Mike Capri knew his future lay in dancing.

After years on the stage, the 59-year-old from Kinner now has a costume business in Dudley which is in demand by theatre companies across the country. His business in Lye is packed with thousands of costumes ranging from glittering outfits for productions such as Showgirls and Copacabana to period-style dresses for shows such as My Fair Lady and Oliver.

"Being surrounded by costumes every day is great and my favourite items are the showgirl outfits," he says.

"We are one of the biggest companies in the country for showgirl costumes and dancewear and we send out hundreds of outfits across the country every week.

"The fact that I used to be a dancer helps as I make sure the costumes allow the wearer to move easily, rather than them just being skimpy."

Mike, who grew up in Wombourne, says he started having ballroom lessons when he was seven at the Lytton School of Dance in Penn.

"I was a bit of a Billy Elliot because my father didn't agree with it," says Mike, who was a pupil at Blakeley Heath Primary and Ounsdale Schools.

Lucky

"I did ballet and tap as well, and carried on with the school until I was 21 when I was lucky enough to get a place with Dougie Squires' Second Generation dance group."

However, standing at just 5ft 6in Mike knew he would have to work harder with the professional company than anyone else just to get noticed.

"In those days the limit for a dancer was 5ft 9in and so I had to prove I was better than their best," says Mike.

"I had been doing choreography with West Bromwich Operatic Society since I was 18 and that started to snowball with other companies."

"Working with Dougie Squires was fantastic and among the highlights was being in Worzel Gummidge at Wembley and doing the Danny Le Rue panto."

"It was hard work and long hours, but we had some great times and I got to work with lots of stars on the Jimmy Tarbuck Show, The Frankies Show and the Les Dawson show where I was head boy."

Over the years Mike has worked with other famous names including Christopher Biggins, Roy Hudd and Bill Pertwee.

He was with Second Generation for almost 10 years and then went to work at Butlins in Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.

"I love Clacton and it became my home for 19 years while I was working at the Westcliffe



Mike Capri set up Triple C's Costumes, which has been in Lye for 20 years

Theatre," says Mike, who lived in Hannover in Germany until he was seven.

"I used to do choreography for the summer shows with people like Don Maclean, The Bachelors, Rod Hull & Emu as well as Keith Harris & Orville."

"However, I still used to come back to the West Midlands at the weekends to work with the amateur companies."

"I did my last dancing show when I was 40 and I said 'never again' due to hip problems."

Kingfisher

Twenty years ago Mike had a dance group at The Kingfisher in Kingswinford, called Kingfisher Dancers, where he used to do showgirl-style performances.

Then Mike and two of the other dancers decided to set up a costume company and Triple C's Costumes has been based in Lye for 20 years.

"We started out with 100 costumes that were used in the show Anything Goes and now we have thousands of them," he says.

"We provide costumes for around 20 pantos every Christmas including those in Southport, Minehead, Torquay, and with the Stourbridge

Pantomime Company. "Throughout the year we are supplying between 20 and 30 shows a month and each production can have up to 200 costumes – the panto ones can be outrageous and it is an expensive game."

Mike says that for every show the costumes have to be altered and when they come back to his store on Dudley Road repairs usually need to be made.

"Our biggest show is Beauty and the Beast as the costumes for characters like the clock and the teapot have to be highly maintained," he says.

"We start working on the panto costumes in June, but at the moment one of our main projects is Crazy for You for West Bromwich Operatic Society as I've been working with them for 16 years."

The costumes are made at the store by Mike and a team of expert seamstresses. Mike says the costumes are at a professional standard because even amateur shows are now costing tens of thousands of pounds to produce.

"I'm one of the lucky ones – I've been in show-business for 35 years and have never been out of work, not many people can say that."

Research over HS2 deemed unlawful

A HIGH Court judge's decision to brand a consultation on high-speed rail plans unlawful is a 'major embarrassment' for the Government, an MEP for the region claims.

Under the proposals the £33 billion HS2 line is earmarked for 225mph trains running between London and Birmingham by 2026, with more to Manchester and Leeds by 2033.

But Mr Justice Ouseley, sitting at London's High Court, however said the 2011 consultation into compensation for affected properties was unlawful and must be rerun in a process likely to take several months.

UKIP Transport Spokesman Mike Nattrass said the decision embarrassed the coalition and the party would continue to campaign for it to be scrapped.

He said: "From the outset UKIP have been totally opposed to HS2."

"The High Court's ruling, that the Government's consultation process for compensating people affected by HS2 was 'unlawful', is a major embarrassment for the ConDem coalition who arrogantly wants to push ahead with this multi-billion pound EU vanity project."

Railway deal is extended

UNDER-fire rail company London Midland has been handed another four-year deal to run trains through Staffordshire and the Black Country.

The firm faced heavy criticism and was forced to offer a multi-million pound compensation package to passengers for cancelling hundreds of services at the end of last year due to a shortage of drivers.

Patrick Verwer, managing director of London Midland, said: "We welcome the announcement of the Government's extension of our franchise to June 2017."

Food fundraiser

A MICHELIN-starred restaurant in is to hold a fundraising meal for Midlands Air Ambulance. The Bilash, on Cheapside, Wolverhampton will host the event on April 29 beginning at 6.30pm. Tickets are £25 each and available on 07816 413613 or email at sarah.arnold@midland-

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Churchill's grandson backs plan for mosaic

THE grandson of Sir Winston Churchill has backed a campaign to get a Dudley memorial honouring his illustrious relative restored.

The glass mosaic was the centrepiece of the Churchill Precinct before it was taken down in the early-1990s due to vandalism and weather damage.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has launched a campaign to get it restored in time for the 50th anniversary of Sir Winston's death in 2015.

And it has now received the backing of his grandson, Conservative MP Nicholas.

He said: "My family and I are delighted to hear about the campaign to restore Dudley's memorial to my grandfather."

"It would be a permanent tribute to the leadership he gave to the British people as they fought for democracy and freedom. I wish the project every success."

Mr Soames said he would be delighted to visit Dudley in 2015 and unveil the restored memorial.

Mr Austin added: "The support of one of Churchill's closest living relatives is the best possible endorsement that we could have for our campaign."

"Nicholas understands better than anyone the contribution that Churchill made."

Dray Day at country fair

A VINTAGE brewer's horse-drawn dray will be delivering beer around the village of Kinner on May 18.

The Dray Day event is part of the build up to the annual Kinner Country Fair on Sunday, June 16.

Kinner Brewery is organising the event with the dray in High Street at noon and 2pm and visiting the Kinner Rock Houses in Compton Road at 3pm. It will deliver to the Cross Inn, Kinner Constitutional Club and Kinner Sports Community Association.

Woman sheriff

A COLLEGE principal has become only the third woman to be installed as Sheriff of the West Midlands. Dame Christine Bradcock from Kidderminster took on the mantle in a traditional ceremony in Birmingham.

Primary pupils head east for trip to China



Some of the Hagley Primary School pupils who are in China

A DOZEN children from a Hagley school have headed to China for the trip of a lifetime over the Easter break.

A group of pupils and staff from Hagley Primary, Park Road, are visiting their partner school, Yangzhou Wenhe Primary School in Yangzhou until Sunday.

The youngsters are staying with host families in Yangzhou for their visit, so they can make the most of the opportunity to gain an understanding of Chinese life and culture.

When they are not attending Yangzhou Wenhe Primary School to work on projects with their Chinese friends, the Hagley students will visit local places of interest, such as Slender West Lake, with the aim of seeing as much of the area as possible.

Gain

Accompanying the 12 children on their trip are headteacher Kevin Bailey, deputy head Lindsay Hobson and assistant head

Suzanne Shackleton, as well as Susan Jubb, Dawn Bradley, and Julie Higginson.

Mr Bailey said: "It's a wonderful opportunity for our students to gain experience of Chinese culture, see this beautiful country for themselves, and develop lasting friendships with children of our partner school Yangzhou Wenhe Primary."

"We're really looking forward to returning home to share all the wonderful experiences of this once-in-a-lifetime trip."

Health bosses work to cut high hospital death rates

HEALTH bosses running Dudley's main hospital say they are taking action to reduce high death rates that prompted an investigation in the wake of the Stafford Hospital scandal.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, is one of 14 trusts across the country being investigated by NHS medical director, Professor Sir Bruce Keogh. Sir Bruce said the trusts face examination following the Francis Inquiry which highlighted failings in Mid-Staffordshire. Dudley Group medical director Dr Paul Harrison was quizzed by councillors in the borough at a meeting recently after they demanded an update and a swift response to tackle the issue.

Council waits on Lenny to get Freedom

COMEDIAN Lenny Henry is to be formally presented with the Freedom of Dudley "within a couple of months" if plans go ahead, the borough's leader has said.

The star, born near Buffery Park in the town welcomed the honour saying it was "bostin' news".

And Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks said while final arrangements were still being made the presentation was expected within two months.

"At the moment it is with Lenny's people. He not only has national but international commitments so it can take a while to get a date confirmed," he said.

"Everything is ready from the council's side of things and as soon as we get a date available to him we can make the final preparations."

"We are working on the assumption the formal presentation will be taking place within the next couple of months."

Lenny, who attended Blue Coat School and often tells stories of his childhood in the town during his routines, was first put forward for the honour last year.

But being granted the accolade was put back after councillors wanted to be clear on the criteria for the award.

Previously the honour has only been conferred on long-serving councillors or military regiments with ties to the town. Councillor Patrick Harley called for criteria changes but the amendment was defeated.

Dr Harrison revealed staff had been "demoralised" when death rates were revealed but the trust was showing significant improvements in latest figures.

He said trust officials had been on a fact-finding mission to the North West to talk to health bosses in the area about how they improved death rates during his report to Dudley Council's health and adult social care scrutiny committee.

Officials visited a health care quality improvement body called the Advancing Quality Alliance which includes members of the North West Strategic Health Authority. Dr Harrison said an action plan had been drawn up.

Presentations

Monthly presentations are now made by clinical departments to the trust chairman, chief executive, medical director and the new Clinical Commissioning Group to track any issues.

"We have made a significant effort. Substantial effects are now being seen - all our current indicators are within expected ranges," said Dr Harrison.

The number of patient deaths at the hospital was above expected levels in 2011/12, the Doctor Foster Hospital Guide found. At Dudley Group the hospital standardised mortality rating, which measures deaths while in hospital care, was 111.1 between April 2011 and March 2012.

The expected level is 100. But Dr Harrison said latest available results from April to August 2012 show the trust is now meeting the 100 target.

Homes in hardship

THE number of British households classed as "financially vulnerable" has trebled since the credit crunch of 2007, a new report claims. More than one in five UK households are described as vulnerable, and the number considered financially secure has halved to eight per cent.

Great outdoors fitness scheme



From left Rachael Doyle of Dudley Council, Chris Gardner of Evolve, and park physical activity manager Kim Braznell working to keep people healthy and fit

PEOPLE who dislike working out in the gym are invited to step into the great outdoors in a new fitness programme.

Evolve Outdoor Fitness is running two new sessions at local open spaces - aimed at people who are "gymnophobics" in Dudley. "Trail Fitness", based at The Leasowes in Halesowen, combines the great outdoors with fitness techniques.

"Park Fitness" takes place at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge and has participants working over 60 muscles in each session.

Former Royal Marine Commando Chris Gardner, a qualified personal trainer, sports therapist, and fitness instructor, leads all the classes. He said: "Outdoor exercise

results in higher levels of post exercise endorphins compared to gym workouts and utilises varied terrain to provide more exciting challenges."

"We can help people to achieve staggering results in a way not seen in ordinary fitness classes as we tailor sessions to meet each individual's goals."

People can try out their first session free - and they can have unlimited access to the classes for £35 per month with no contract, which means the subscription can be cancelled at any time.

For further information, contact 07528 364712, or go online to www.evolvefitness.uk.com.

NEWS in brief

Great expectations for Dickens show

THE Charles Dickens' classic Great Expectations will be retold later this month in a one man show played by his great great grandson.

Gerald Dickens will stage his performance at Netherthorpe Arts Centre, Northfield Road, Netherthorpe, on April 26.

The first show is 1.30pm and is for schools.

A performance at 7.30pm will be open to the public and tickets are on sale from Dudley Box Office on 01384 812812.

Tickets cost £11 for adults and £7 for children.

Towers group hits £1bn sales mark

THE theme park group that owns Alton Towers unveiled record profits and visitor numbers.

Despite the tough economic backdrop and the wettest UK summer on record Merlin Entertainment, which also owns Madame Tussauds, Sea Life Centres and a string of Legoland resorts, broke the £1bn sales mark for the first time.

Operating profit rose by 16.5 per cent to £258m from £222m in 2011.

Choir springing into performance

A CHOIR will perform melodies for spring in South Staffordshire.

The Chad Singers will be at Pittingham Village hall on May 11 from 7.30pm.

The show will include songs such as Moon River and Portrait for My Love as well from the shows of Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Tickets are £8 from Sue Penny on 01902 700136 or Gena Richards on 01902 700188.

Centre is offering lifeguard training

SWIMMERS can train as lifeguards at a Dudley Leisure Centre.

The Royal Life Saving Society is running the pool lifeguard course at Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre from April 8 to April 12 from 2-10.30pm with an exam on Saturday, April 13, over 16s only. It costs £240 and spaces must be pre-booked. Call 01384 812800.

Auction dates

KIDDERMINSTER auctioneers Halls will hold property sales at the Gainsborough House Hotel in Bewdley Hill on May 22 and July 24. Halls, in Franche Road, is inviting entries for both auctions.

There is one small job that you have been meaning to do for years -

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

COMMENTING on her latest wedding nuptials – the second in a month – glamour model-turned-“businesswoman” Katie Price was quoted as saying: “This will be my last.” For those of us who intently hang on to every one of her pearls of wisdom, these words are significant indeed.

At the same time, given that watershed announcement came at the end of a newspaper report, it begs the question of whether her sentence had been cut short.

And what she really said was: “This will be my last for this month.”

THE story about the 17-year-old who devised a smartphone app while revising for his exams, and then sold it to internet giant Yahoo for £20m, is fascinating and disturbing in equal measure. Admittedly, part of my discomfort comes from the fact that I don't even know what a smartphone app is, let alone how to make £20m from one.

But if Nick D'Aloisio-Montilla is clever enough to persuade the great minds of Yahoo to part with such a sum of money, good luck to him. No doubt young Nick celebrated his good fortune with scones all round and lashings of ginger beer, but will the money really bring him happiness?

For most youngsters on the brink of adulthood, life is a journey of discovery, an exciting time of new experiences, triumphs and failures. But having made so much money so young, it is hard to see how anything he achieves from now will seem like anything other than a disappointment.

And there is something not quite right about a 17-year-old who talks in terms of “3D rendering” and “product road maps”.

It is a bit like the arguments about whether 16 and 17-year-olds should be given the right to vote. When I was 17, there were lots of things I was desperate to do, mostly involving cars and alcohol, although never together you understand, but I can't honestly say voting figured highly.

Any adolescent whose burning desire is to turn up at their local school and put a cross next to the name of their local councillor is surely reason enough to keep the voting age at 18.

AND if further proof was needed that we are turning into a nation of geeks, I could not believe my eyes by what I saw during a football match at the weekend.

No, not Aston Villa throwing away a promising lead with sloppy defending. It was the reaction of one home supporter when his side took the lead on 31 minutes. While most of the Villa fans were jumping around cheering, the chap sitting next to us barely seemed to notice.

He sat resolutely in his seat tapping frantically away at his mobile phone. It just shows how becoming a slave to technology can sap out even the most basic of joys.



Long caring arm of the law



It was not until 1918 that women could join the force and this is an early line-up including females



The long trousers of the law

Changing image of women in the police

Things have changed since woman were first allowed to join the police force as **CHARLOTTE LILLEY** finds out

WHEN she joined West Midlands Police force 20 years ago, Vanessa Eyles was issued with a handbag and stocking allowance.

Her uniform consisted of skirts and culottes and the force was predominantly dominated by men.

But today things are different and almost 60 per cent of police staff in the region are women and there are 138 female Special Constables.

To reflect their changing role, the force has released a collection of photographs from the past eight decades which show just how far women have come.

But as Inspector Eyles, chair of West Midlands Police Association of Female Officers says, it's been a bumpy ride on the road to equality.

“Women have made such an advancement in the force and now have roles and ranks in all areas which is completely different to when I joined the force,” she says.

Equal

“I was issued with a police handbag and a stocking allowance as well as skirts and culottes, as one photograph shows.”

“Thankfully, women are now classed as equal and the force no longer issues bags. The uniform is much better as men and women can now both wear trousers which is a lot more suitable.”

When they started out as officers in 1918, women had no powers of arrest and were not deemed worthy of being issued personal protective equipment.

Before they could join the force, they had to be 45 years old, as one photo taken around 1918 shows.

The image is of a group of mainly women officers believed to be among the first to have worn the uniform in the



From capes in the 1960 and culottes in the 1990s to the cycle cops of today



region. Another taken between 1918 and 1920, shows a matron at the central lock-up in Birmingham.

From 1850 onwards, policemen's wives worked voluntarily for the force, searching female prisoners and drunk women in custody.

“As they were not allowed to work, they often volunteered in stations, cooking for single policemen.”

But in 1914, the force paid its first woman, Evelyn Miles, to act as matron at the central lock-up to supervise female prisoners.

She later went on to join the force as the first female police officer and rose to the rank of sergeant.

Insp Eyles says: “Things weren't much different when I was in the force.

female officer in the force. She has responsibility for local policing and goes above and beyond her role alongside her male colleagues.

She replaced Suzette Davenport who was recently appointed as Chief Constable of Gloucestershire Police.

“Sharon is a great officer and I have very high hopes for her, she will go far. Suzette is also really good which goes to show women can be just as good as men,” says Inspector Eyles.

But women still have a long way to go before they achieve complete equality as the number of female officers in the force is still not equal to the number of men, Inspector Eyles explains.

“To say there is absolute equality in the force in terms of the number of female officers wouldn't be true.

“The amount of women does not yet reflect the number of women in society, but that is our aim for the future.

Engage

“We want to be able to reflect the society we serve to the best of our ability.”

“However, I do have to say that I think we are getting there.

“I can't imagine any organisation or public service not having any females in its team.

“Women have a different outlook to that of men and can really enrich a service's delivery. We are an integral part of the force.

“While on the beat, I believe that people may see women as much more approachable than male officers, enabling us to engage with the public better.

“I also think it is important to remember that we have a female Home Secretary, Theresa May, which just goes to show women really are making advances in the workplace and in particular, the police force.”

To view the full collection of photographs about female advancement within West Midlands Police, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/westmidlandspolice>

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A YOUNG policeman on the beat got more than he bargained for after turning midwife when a mum-to-be went in to labour.

Elizabeth Fraser was expecting only one baby, but PC William Earle found himself delivering twins.

TALKS to end a strike at the Lucas Aerospace factory in Wolverhampton ground to a halt after workers rejected the terms offered by the company. The strike began on April 5 after 900 manual workers downed tools after a row over new technology.

POLICE officers smashed down a front door to rescue one man and his dog from a fire at Rubery, near Birmingham.

Sgt Peter Blake and Pc Paul Bott lead Keith Smith and his Labrador to safety after drying clothes fell on to a gas fire.

1993...

A £1.5 MILLION housing development for the elderly was opened in the site of Wolverhampton's wartime airport.

Cresswell Court offered 40 one-bedroom apartments with door entry security and guest accommodation.

EASTER came early for youngsters at a Wolverhampton hospital who received a 3ft egg from the Easter Bunny. Children at New Cross Hospital were given the 28lb egg by advertising agency Colley Slater Brooker.

A WOLVERHAMPTON mother snatched her sleeping son from his bed as hot water rained down on him from a flat above his bedroom. Mandy Robinson fought her way through the steam engulfing eight-year-old Daniel's room to grab him from his hot soaking bed.

2003...

WOLVERHAMPTON'S famous tramp Josef Stawinoga had his tent replaced by the council, but he was not happy. The Polish war veteran, known as ‘Fred’, had lived on the central reservation on St John's ring road for more than 35 years. When asked about his new abode, Fred said in Polish: “I am not interested in another tent.”

SCORES of youngsters abandoned their street hang outs in favour of a newly-opened ball court in Low Hill, Wolverhampton.

The multi-ball court featured football, basketball and netball provision and was being used by up to 40 children every night.

WOLVERHAMPTON'S oldest women celebrated her 108th birthday – and she put it all down to getting plenty of rest.

Hilda Tudor enjoyed a celebration at Springfield Residential Home in Oaken Drive, Codsall and received a greeting from the Queen.

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MEMORY LANE



Lipton's shop on the corner of Queen Square and Exchange Street shortly before the Second World War



Darlington Street after the First World War where James Beattie was acquiring premises during the 1920s



Mr Preece's shop in Collingwood Road, Low Hill, pictured after the Second World War



Shoppers enjoy the newly-built Wulfrun Centre in 1970

Looking at century of changes to shopping

AN exhibition at Wolverhampton's Bantock House Museum is taking a historic look at the shops and eating places of the city.

Open All Hours opened on January 16 and runs until May 5. It will examine how the high street has changed throughout history.

After the First World War, chain stores including Sainsbury's, Maypole, Liptons and the Fifty Shilling Tailor began to appear in the town centre and shoppers were spoilt for choice with billboards advertising Bovril, Pearl Soap and Ovaltine.

In the 1920s, James Beattie acquired premises in Darlington Street and after Victoria Street was widened, he began a major rebuild of the Beatties store.

By 1936 unemployment was

by Charlotte Lilley

down to two million, more people were earning money and factories were struggling to keep up with the demand for radios, cars and electrical goods including the first television sets.

But at the end of the Second World War shortages and rationing dominated post-war retailing and shops including Mr Preece's Grocery Shop on Collingwood Road, Low Hill, had limited stock to create lavish window displays.

The Queen's Coronation in 1953 marked the beginning of a new era and business began to pick up for shops in Lichfield Street, Broad Street and Stafford Road as they hung flags outside to enjoy the occasion.

By 1959, the wholesale fruit and vegetable market was in full swing and the indoor Saturday market

attracted wives and mothers who during the week were tied to the house and children. Both markets were often held responsible for causing congestion in Wulfruna Street so a new market was built in 1968 in School Street but this has since moved to Salop Street.

The Wulfrun Centre, off Dudley Street, was built in 1969 and increased the number of big-name chain stores in the town.

For the first time, shoppers were able to buy the latest in 60s and 70s fashion, entertainment and novelty goods.

In August 1998, work began on a 13-month project to revitalise the centre. Ambitious plans for a £25 million pound investment in the city centre were unveiled last June.

It is hoped the new development will pave the way for more shops in the hope of attracting major retailers and even more shoppers.



Staff at Charles Warner's shop celebrate the Queen's Coronation



Wolverhampton Market in 1959 was responsible for congestion

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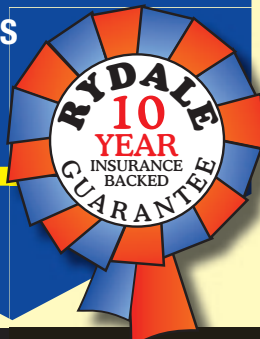
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NEWS

Store's apprenticeship scheme praised by MP

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James visited the town's Aldi store to meet a young apprentice who has been employed by the retailer.

Dominic Young, aged 16, from Quarry Bank, was employed by Aldi Stourbridge last July through the company's national apprentice scheme.

Stourbridge College's Black Country Skills Shop recently completed a recruitment campaign in partnership with Aldi which resulted in 11 local teenagers being selected as apprentices in retail management.

Aldi started to shop around for apprentices when they launched their national Apprentice Scheme last year.

Working with local colleges connected to the National Skills Academy for Retail, they have been targeting school leavers interested in pursuing a career in retail management.

Commitment

Miss James said: "Apprenticeships are a great way for young people to start off on their career path, earning money while they learn their trade and getting qualifications at the same time."

"I'm really impressed with Aldi's apprenticeship scheme."

"It shows a national employer's commitment to providing jobs for young people while at the same time allowing their employees to acquire skills and qualifications which can take them further."

Tina Dalzell, Black Country Skills Shop manager at the Merry Hill Centre, said: "Part of the partnership agreement is for us to advertise the apprenticeship scheme locally and recruit apprentices for Aldi at 19 stores covering the Black Country, Worcestershire and Shropshire."

"We received a staggering 980 appli-



MP Margot James, left, meets Dominic Potter and Alison Marshall

cations." Black Country Skills Shop staff whittled the numbers down to 50.

Candidates were put through a selection process including attending two pre-apprenticeship programmes.

They covered such things as retail knowledge, two customer service training courses, one-to-one interview practice, team-working exercises, free

writing exercises, role play and then a work trial in their chosen store followed by an interview with the area manager.

Aldi is all set to start another apprenticeship recruitment drive in June through the Black Country Skills Shop.

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NEWS

Summer start for work on £10m tourism project



An artist's impression of the new entrance to Dudley Zoo. The whole scheme will be finished by next summer

A MULTI-MILLION pound transformation of a tourist area aimed at boosting jobs and visitors in the area will begin in the summer.

Land between Dudley Zoo and Castle, the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust at Castle Hill, will be redeveloped to create a 600-space visitor car park and a recreational route linking the attractions.

Bosses said after plans were approved by Dudley Council last week, that work on the £10.1 million project

was now due to start in three months.

The creation of a new access route off Tipton Road will be the first phase of the scheme which is expected to take until the end of the year to complete.

The road will stretch to the zoo entrance and continue to the rear of the site where it will link up to the new car park. Engineering works for the new road are already under way.

Around half of the 600-space car park will be created as part of phase one with the remainder built during the second phase of the scheme.

Bosses at the zoo said work to create a new entrance for the attraction was

due to begin around Christmas when roads around the site were quieter.

The second phase of the scheme will continue in January and will include work on the new entrance and the creation of a visitor information centre.

Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock said the entire scheme was due to be completed by next summer.

He said timescales for the work had now been agreed with the aim of completely changing the look of the area within 18 months.

Mr Suddock said: "Dudley Council approved the plans, and we are not hanging around."

OUT AND ABOUT

Thomas and lots of white-knuckle thrills

DRAYTON Manor Theme Park, near Tamworth, has opened its doors for the new season.

The park, set in 280 acres of countryside, is home to Europe's only Thomas Land, which will delight young fans of Thomas and Friends.

Based on the ever-popular TV series, Thomas Land features many rides and attractions including Cranky's Drop Tower and the Troublesome Trucks Coaster and Blue Mountain Engines.

Drayton Manor also boasts a selection of white-knuckle thrill rides, including the adrenaline-inducing drop-tower Apocalypse, stand-up coaster Shockwave, the splash-tastic log flume Stormforce 10 and stomach-churning gyro-swing Maelstrom. There's also a sensational 4D cinema.

Monkeys

There is a 15-acre zoo within the theme park's grounds, which houses a Sumatran tiger, monkeys and primates, a meerkat mob, and a pair of highly-endangered black leopards, as well as birds of prey and reptiles.

For visitors looking to turn a day trip into an overnight stay, there's also the luxurious four-star Drayton Manor Hotel. It has 150 bedrooms, including 15 Thomas & Friends themed family rooms, each with a unique hand-painted scene on the wall and ceiling, themed bunk beds, and train track patterned carpets in the corridors leading to each room.

For further information about Drayton Manor Theme Park or to pre-book discounted entry tickets visit www.draytonmanor.co.uk or call 0844 472 1960.



Rosie, Thomas, the Fat Controller and friends at Thomas Land, the special attraction for younger children within Drayton Manor Theme Park

Full steam ahead on the SVR

FULLY up and running for the new season, Severn Valley Railway has packed its timetable full of events, special guests, activities and exciting opportunities for visitors this spring.

Throughout Easter the attraction's many resident steam locomotives will be fired-up and ready to take visitors back in time on a journey through stunning scenery along the railway's 16-mile span from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth, stopping off at the six unique stations en-route.

For hands-on fun, The Engine House at Hightley has re-opened with a range of interactive exhibits, including up to eight impressive steam locomotives, a majestic royal carriage and railway-themed outdoor play area.

Birmingham-based theatre company Language Alive! will bring some Easter entertainment with interactive children's performance All Aboard! at 10.45am at Kidderminster station on April 9 and 10, transporting their audience back to winter 1852.

Peppa Pig & George will be special guests at the first of two Family Fun Weekends, on April 27-28 April, followed by Octonauts stars Captain Barnacles and Kwazii on May 11 and 12. The two action-packed events also include a kids' disco, inflatable play area, surf simulator, art & craft workshops and family entertainment.

For bookings and more information, contact 01299 403816 or visit the www.svr.co.uk website.

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No appeal on refusal for quarry

CAMPAIGNERS who won a fight to stop a new quarry being opened in a village have welcomed news that no appeal against refusal has been made.

F G Davis & Sons, which already operates a quarry in Enville Road, Wall Heath, had vowed to appeal after Staffordshire County Council rejected its plans for sand and gravel extraction in nearby Mile Flat, next to the Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club.

Bosses said the decision, taken last June, would lead to "considerable" job losses among their 30-strong workforce. But they have not submitted an appeal within the six-month deadline.

Quarries Fighting Fund campaigner Councillor Dave Tyler said: "To see the deadline date pass without an appeal from F G Davis & Sons has come as a relief."

No one was available for comment at the firm.

Tributes for farmer who helped to change the face of UK agriculture

TRIBUTES have been paid to a Midland farmer and potato merchant whose designs helped change the face of UK agriculture.

Great-grandfather Philip Solari, the oldest surviving member of Wolverhampton and Stourbridge branch of the National Farmers' Union, has died, aged 98.

He was well known for farming innovations, designing the Solari pig farrowing pen which helped improve animal husbandry and piglet welfare. He also developed the world's first four-row potato planter and two-row potato elevator digger.

Mr Solari, who had 21 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren, held regional and national posts aiding the industry.

Ashley Smith, Wolverhampton and Stourbridge NFU group secretary, said: "We have lost one of the most renowned British farmers. Philip Solari was a great innovator."

A publican's son from Wall Heath, near Kingswinford, whose family ran The Prince Albert pub, he caught the farming bug

while at school. He worked as an auctioneer for King's in Stourbridge, before setting up a potato merchant business.

A keen sportsman he played in the undefeated 1933/34 Stourbridge RFC side and water-skied until he was 78. In 1940 he took on his first farm, a 90-acre tenancy near Enville, before buying land in 1947 from the Earl of Dudley Estate at £70 an acre.

Mr Solari later developed two pig rearing units at Chasepool Farm, near Enville, and Heath House Farm, at Beckbury, near Wolverhampton, where he settled with wife Mary and their family.

Active

Mr Solari's youngest, Richard, said his father was active and was always thinking of better ways to do things.

He said: "In 1940 he took on his first farm which was a 90 acre tenancy near Enville which was known locally as Poverty Bank."

"What was good is that it used to miss the spring frost so was perfect for early potato growing. In 1947 he bought his first bit of land from the Earl of Dudley Estate, it was £70 an acre back then and he used to say he

didn't sleep for three months worrying about the cost.

"What was poignant though was there was a really bad winter in 1946 which continued into the spring of 1947, like the spring now.

"As a result of the late, wet snow and following the coldest February on record he did not plant his potatoes until April 13, however, his first 50 acres came in at an average of £1,600 an acre, that's more than 20 times the value of the land which went a long way to set him up."

"As he wasn't from farming stock he always questioned everything and always thought there must be a different way of doing things."

"He didn't always have all the answers but he certainly wasn't afraid to seek advice."

Richard said his father was keen on soil management and nutrition and realised light ground needed manure to help it become profitable which is why he got into pig farming alongside potatoes.

A service of celebration was due to be held yesterday at Telford Crematorium.



Mr Solari, who has died at the age of 98, in the 1990s

Students help to revamp hall

A POPULAR community hall in Dudley has been given a revamp, thanks to students on a Prince's Trust programme run by City of Wolverhampton College.

A total of 15 young people, aged 16 to 25, took on the redecoration of the Richardson Hall in Lawnswood Road, Wordsley, for a two-week community project as part of their 12-week team scheme.

The students smartened up the main hall, kitchen and toilets of the centre with a new lick of paint after raising more than £700 to buy decorating materials.

They packed bags for shoppers at a local supermarket, endured a leg wax, and were even sponsored to sit in a bath of baked beans outside the hall. Janet Blakeway, chairwoman of Wordsley and District Community Association which manages the hall, said: "City of Wolverhampton College and the Prince's Trust could have no finer students."

"For two weeks they sanded, masked, painted and cleaned to a really professional standard and their hard work, team spirit and sense of humour was greatly appreciated."

"We now have a hall that, once again, we can be proud of."

For more information about schemes visit www.wolvcoll.ac.uk/princetrust or call the Prince's Trust office on 01902 821906.

Charity finds Black Jack a new home



Black Jack enjoying freedom at his new home in Wales

A DONKEY abandoned in a tatty sheep trailer on a Dudley estate has found a new home and a loving family after being rescued by a charity. The animal, named Black Jack, had been hidden in the trailer on the Russells Hall estate, and was barely able to move in the confined space.

Officials from Donkey Rescue UK said the three-year-old animal had been kept in the soiled trailer for about a week.

The charity took action after receiving a tip-off from a member of the public. Bosses had to pay for him to be handed over to them but have said it had been worth it to ensure Black Jack could be found a new home.

He has now been rehomed in Wales to a couple experienced in looking after donkeys and is loved and cared for, the charity said. Amanda Ball, founder, said: "The poor donkey was terrified and we believe he had been kept in the trailer for about a week."

Meatballs come back

MEATBALLS are back on the menu at Ikea after being pulled when traces of horse meat were discovered in them. Sales, halted after contaminated meat was found in a batch exported to the Czech Republic, began again recently. Horse meatballs, labelled as beef and pork, were in frozen packs sent to Ikea stores there. "It is clear that IKEA Group, despite high standards, has failed to live up to our customers' expectations," Ikea global food manager Edward Mohr said. Ikea has cut its meat suppliers from 15 to seven.

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NEWS

Prolific speed cameras caught 50 drivers a day

LOCATIONS of the most prolific speed cameras in the Black Country have been revealed for the first time – with some showing to have caught more than 50 speeding drivers a day.

New figures show the area's 27 remaining active static cameras recorded 18,604 speeding drivers in 2012.

There are 305 camera housings across the West Midlands – including the Black Country, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull – but many are now dummies and are never used while others have the camera equipment moved between them.

It comes just over a week after funding for fixed Gatso cameras runs out and all the remaining active ones are due to be switched off.

Instead, drivers will be targeted by mobile cameras in vans and will not know where they are going to be.

Almost half of the offences were snapped by just three cameras dotted along the A34 Birmingham Road through Sandwell.

Figures show that in Dudley, the most prolific speed camera was situated on the A491 in Stourbridge. It caught 498 speeding motorists.

But Dudley Councillor Judy Foster, backed her council's move on the cut in funding for static cameras, adding that mobile cameras provided a better road safety service.

She said: "I'm afraid there is always a risk on our roads, however what we are doing is making a great use of mobile cameras – listening to a community and putting the camera in place for a short-term measure."

Barn dance for charity

A CHARITY barn dance is to be held at Wolverhampton's Goodyear Pavilion later this month. The event will take place on April 19 from 8pm in aid of Compton Hospice. Tickets are £6.50 in advance from Compton Hospice or £8 on the door.

Mummy's the word



Pupils Cameron Humphries, front, with Haseeb Waheed, Ahsan Khan and, top, Callum Ellis, who are all aged eight, build a pyramid shape at life in ancient Egypt covered across different subjects including history and art. The pupils learned about mummification and created their own scripture on papyrus.

In previous years, the school has also held Egyptian-style banquets to give them a flavour of life under the pharaohs.

Teacher Lisa Kirk said she was delighted with the pupils for getting into the spirit of the day and dressing up. She added: "They have really enjoyed it."

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Transformations

Suction another solution



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A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered by the Denture Clinic.

Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), who heads the teams at his North Street practice in Dudley and other clinics in Wolverhampton and Bearwood, says the invention has the potential to resolve issues with the poor stabilisation of dentures.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the prescription. A clever diaphragms principle, triggered by the bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

Mr Burchell, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "The den-

ture revolution is evolving at a pace. In recent times we have seen what I can describe only as strident steps forward with implant-retained dentures coming into main-stream dentistry, clever technology which allows excellent fitting outcomes and now the Ultra Suction product.

"Implant dentistry is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference.

'Toolbox'

"The beauty of this technology is that it can offer for the right patient excellent denture retainer qualities without the complex clinical procedures required for implant work.

"We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another tool in our commitment to always try to deliver results which are greater than patient expectations."

Historically, lower dentures can

present stability problems as the jaw bone erodes with age. With traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and create painful friction problems on gums.

Mr Burchell adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower palates and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can result in improved speech and taste.

"The Ultra Suction kit increases the options in our clinical 'toolbox' and can provide affordable solutions to many patients who would not wish to pursue the stability resolve with implants.

"I remain passionate about the transformations good prosthetics can achieve."

Typically, patients will be encouraged to contribute their views to treatment plans and generally be assigned more than three-and-a-half clinical hours in achieving the best possible outcome.

Betty is free from pain after having implants

A WOMAN who had suffered years of pain with two jaw conditions has finally found relief after undergoing dental implant surgery.

Betty had worn dentures for many years but developed neuralgia and her trigeminal nerve had become inflamed.

"I had terrible jaw pain and suffered pins and needles in the side of my head and tongue. It's a terrible condition. I'd had an MRI scan and had seen a specialist, but was still without relief," she says.

Clinical dental technician Mr Burchell had made dentures for Betty seven years ago and she returned to his clinic to inquire about a new prescription because the lower denture had lost its stability.

"I had put up with the floating effect of my lower denture and needed to address the problem. My lower gum had receded so much my denture was pressing down on a nerve and causing me pain," she adds.

Steven explained the benefits of implant-retained dentures and told me it would allow my bite to be opened some more. Since having the implants on my lower denture, I have experienced no more pain."

Mr Burchell said all dentures have a shelf life and Betty's denture problem was due to shrinkage of her gums – a naturally occurring aging process.

"We hoped for an improved outcome on her condition, but never dreamed that the final clinical result could be so rewarding with Betty being free from pain," he adds.

The Denture Clinic is at 82 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, WV1 4TF. Don't suffer any longer – call 01902 539300 for a free consultation
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Amblecote Christian Centre
Brettell Lane, 9.30am
Tel: Aimee
07967 771001

Wollaston

The Ridge Primary School,
Gregory School, 7.00pm
Tel: Pauline 07941 282122

Quarry Bank

Thorns Primary School
Thorns Road,
4.30pm & 6.30pm
Tel: Lisa 01384 820587

Lye

Salvation Army
55 High Street, 7.30pm
Tel: Kerry
01384 833812
•Parking at rear•

Wordsley

Ashwood Park Primary
School, Bells Lane, 7.00pm
Tel: Ian 01384 827999

Dudley Wood

Methodist Church
Quarry Road 9.30am
Tel: Lisa 01384 820587

TUESDAY

Pedmore

Hob Green School, Hob
Green Road,
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Paula
07846 847068

TUESDAY

Wordsley

Richardson Hall,
Lawnswood Road,
10am
Tel Ian: 01384 827999

Amblecote

Peters Hill Primary
School,
Peters Hill Road,
6pm, 7.30pm
Tel: Lynne 01384 455427

Norton

Gigmill Primary School
The Broadway, 7pm
Tel: Aimee
07967 771001

Bromley/Kingswinford

Dingle Community Centre,
Madeley Road,
7pm Tel: Diane
07974 657589

Wollaston

St James C of E
Primary School,
Kingsway, 7pm
Tel: Delwyn
01562 887922

WEDNESDAY

Stourbridge

Territorial Army Centre,
Wiggin House, Swinford
Road, 9.30am
Tel: Marie
01384 893001

Amblecote

Amblecote Primary
School, School Drive
7.00pm Tel: Caroline
01562 888315

WEDNESDAY

Oldswinford

St Mary's Church Hall,
Rectory Road, 4pm,
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Kerry 01384 833812

Brierley Hill

Whymoor Primary
School,
Gayfield Avenue, 7pm
Tel: Lynne
01384 455427

Kinver

Brindley Heath Junior
School, Enville Road,
7pm
Tel: Ian 01384 827999

Kingswinford

Royal British Legion,
Summerhill,
3.30pm, 5.00pm &
6.30pm
Tel: Ann 01384 74864

THURSDAY

Stourbridge

Greenfield Primary
School, Hill Street,
7.00pm Tel: Marie
01384 893001

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Brierley Hill

Nine Locks Community
Centre, Hill Street,
9.15am Tel: Gillian
01384 830929

THURSDAY

Stourbridge

St Thomas Church Hall,
Market Street,
10.00am Tel: John
01384 423616

Hagley

Hagley Primary School,
Park Road, 5.30pm &
7.30pm Tel: Paula
07846 847068

Hawbush

Oakfield Centre,
Brettell Lane, 5.00pm
& 7.00pm
Tel: John
01384 423616

FRIDAY

Kingswinford

St Mary's Church Hall
The Village, 10.00am
Tel: Sue 07825 354224

SATURDAY

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Centre, Brettell Lane,
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NEWS

Supermarket plan for centre



The giant glass atrium entrance planned for the store

THESE are the first impressions of the supermarket proposed for Dudley town centre which hopes to create up to 500 jobs. They offer a glimpse of the huge glass atrium entrance to the two-storey store.

If permission is granted the 27,000 sq ft supermarket will be built in the New Mill Gate area between Flood Street and King Street and the Falcon House office block will be knocked down. The planned supermarket complex would include a cafe and petrol station.

A car park below the complex will have 278 spaces. The scheme could create up to 500 jobs and bring much-needed redevelopment to King Street.

Positive

Developer Commercial Estate Group submitted its final details for the £20million scheme to Dudley Council for approval last month. It includes some design amendments following a public consultation on the idea last year. Richard Burke, project manager at Commercial Estates Group, said: "We have had very positive discussions with the council and the amendments to the plans make for a scheme which will bring great benefits to the wider community through landscaping, improvements to pedestrian access and a major investment in the heart of the town."

"We look forward to bringing the plans forward in the near future."

Market traders calling for more talks on plans

TRADERS on Dudley's historic market have called for more talks with council officials over multi-million pound redevelopment plans.

Proposals for a £6 million overhaul of the market in the heart of the town are in the pipeline alongside a stall rent freeze for 12 months in a bid to boost traders and bring more customers to the high street.

But Dudley Market Traders' Association have called for stallholders to be more involved in discussions.

Group chairman Len Lenihan, in a statement on behalf of stallholders, said members were promised talks relating to the construction of the stalls, fixtures and fittings, following the original public consultation.

But Mr Lenihan says the talks with regeneration boss Councillor Shaikat Ali and the council's assistant director for economic regeneration and transportation Phil Coyne have failed to progress.

"We fear that another white elephant may appear on Dudley's High Street to rival the entertainment square on Stone Street," he said. "A thriving market place requires two elements: A market stall fit for purpose and, more importantly, market traders willing to trade."

"Traders fear their concerns over construction issues have fallen on deaf ears. It has been intimated that disruption to trade could last for 18 months with traders being moved to temporary stalls. Ultimately, market traders' livelihoods are at stake, as well as the town centre's well-being."

Locals angry at miserable Dudley slur

TRADERS, councillors and MPs have leapt to the defence of their beloved Dudley after it was named the ninth unhappiest place to live in the UK.

Researchers from property website Rightmove asked almost 40,000 homeowners how they felt about the safety and neighbourliness of their area and the size and condition of their property, among 12 "measurements of happiness".

While northerners were generally happier than southerners, Dudley broke the mould by being the only place outside Greater London included in the 10 unhappiest places to live.

Alan Caswell, who owns Arcade Toyshop in the town, said that in his 40 years of doing business in Dudley, he found it to be "very happy".

He added: "Midlands people are the happiest in the UK. I think Dudley is full of good people and, having worked with them, I think we're the top of the happiest places, never mind the ninth unhappiest."

Dudley MP Ian Austin dismissed the survey as "ridiculous".

Leaping to the defence of his beloved hometown, he said: "I grew up here, have lived here most of my life and I love the place and the people who live here."

Councillor Dave Branwood, who represents Gornal, said: "No way is Dudley the metropolis of misery."

Walkers raise £5,000



Hilary Croydon, Denise Hudson and Janet Hutchinson, of the Rainbow Breast group who raised money to buy hospital equipment

GENEROUS fundraisers who strolled around a West Midlands beauty spot for charity have donated £5,000 for breast cancer patients.

Members of The Rainbow Breast Reconstruction Group, Dudley raised the cash for a vital piece of machinery for the Breast Care Unit at Russells Hall Hospital.

The group, formed by Denise Hudson and Deb Barnett around six years ago, collected the money from their latest fundraising walk.

More than 200 walkers took part in the event at Bodenham Arboretum, near Kidderminster, last Easter, raising £12,795 in total for good causes. Around £6,000 has

already been donated to the Dudley Cancer Support charity while a further £1,000 was given to the hospital to help cancer research.

Now fundraisers have handed over another cash sum to staff at the hospital's Breast Care Unit to buy a lymphoedema perometer machine.

It is able to aid in the assessment of lymphoedema, which often develops as a side effect of cancer treatment, up to 10 months earlier than normal.

Mrs Hudson, who lives in Stourton, near Stourbridge, said: "It is lovely to think we have raised this much because the community came together and gave something back."

Crunch talks set over home for the Heathens

OFFICIALS and fans from Dudley Heathens Speedway Club will hold crunch talks with council bosses in a bid to find a new home in the town.

A meeting will be held with Dudley Council's leader David Sparks to discuss the possibility of the team returning to the borough. But the councillor has warned them that finding a suitable venue could be difficult. It comes as one champion rider says the club is desperate to race again in Dudley. The club, which was formerly called Cradley Heathens, has been based at Wolverhampton's Monmore Green Stadium after reforming three years ago. It has since been the team's aim to return to the town it was first based in, preferably close to their original Dudley Wood Stadium.

However, after ideas for a stadium were left out of the council's planned regeneration of Castle Hill, no plans are in place for a new home in the borough. The club's fourth rider, Daniel Greenwood, has added his voice to the growing calls for a stadium in the town. He said: "It would be great to have our own home, somewhere we can be based and call our own."

"We already have high attendances, but if we were based in Dudley I think that could be doubled, and that would only be good for the club. If we don't get our own track we will never be able to realise our potential and reach the elite leagues."

Daniel, aged 19, won the British Under-15 Championship in 2007. This year, he came sixth in the regional finals of the British Under-21 Championship in Plymouth, so he now goes forward to the Under-21 national finals in Wolverhampton on April 23.

He said: "I know there are concerns over noise and building in built-up areas."

"But this is important for the club and we need to find somewhere."

NEWS

Tim bangs the drum



Tim Rogers, of Stourbridge, who has launched a music school for youngsters which uses the Cajon, a box drum. A DRUMMER is hoping to inspire the next generation of Black Country beaters by giving youngsters the chance to learn basic rhythms.

Tim Rogers has set up a mobile music school, called Fun on a Drum, aimed at giving children aged seven to 10 the confidence to take up an instrument. Using a simple box drum, the Cajon, Mr Rogers is able to teach youngsters basic rhythms and even how to play in a group.

The 42-year-old said Fun on a Drum could be booked for school and community centre visits and even children's parties. He developed the idea after seeing his nine-year-old daughter Tess playing the instrument and realising it was a fun and easy way to get children interested in music.

Mr Rogers, of Stourbridge, has been a drummer for 30 years. He plays in a folk band called Kim Lowings and The Greenwood, which has recently recorded an album.

"I have played regular drum kits but at the moment I mainly play the Cajon," he said. "Because the drums are only boxes they can be transported easily which means I can visit schools and other places for workshops and events. The Cajon is an easy way to learn about music."

The aim is to give children a glimpse into playing an instrument which they will want to build on.

For more information on Fun on a Drum call 01384 485251 or 07910 375741.

Solution on badgers will have to wait for red tape

LONG-term action will not be taken to deal with badgers blighting a Dudley cul-de-sac until new Government guidelines have been agreed.

Residents in The Haven, Wordsley, have long campaigned for measures as gardens are regularly torn up and plants uprooted. The animals have also burrowed out setts in a sandstone bank near to homes, causing large amounts of debris to fall to the ground.

But residents face a further wait for long-term action to deal with the situation despite having to put up with the problem for years.

Dudley Council said it was waiting for guidelines from the Government and Natural England before deciding on the most appropriate way forward.

The authority has been monitoring the situation and reported no significant disruption between August and November last year.

But residents say in recent months their gardens have been damaged again and debris from the sandstone bank has started to again pile up on one driveway. They have called on the council to find a way of tackling the problem in the long-term.

by Lee Watton

ling the problem in the long-term.

But Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said while monitoring would continue there was little else which could presently be done.

"Regular surveys will be carried out but in the meantime we are continuing to wait for guidelines from the Government and Natural England," he said.

"Then we will be able to decide on the most appropriate way forward."

Resident Lorraine Price, 81, said she was "not surprised" no action would be taken in the near future.

"I have been contacted by the council and they have agreed to remove the pile of sandstone which has gathered," she said. "I suppose we will have to wait and see what guidelines are agreed."

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MNA Media

NEWS

Businesses are backing battle for Hippodrome

MORE than a dozen businesses have pledged their support to campaigners fighting to save Dudley Hippodrome from demolition.

Taxi drivers, hotels and High Street stores are among those rallying behind the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome.

It is the latest attempt by campaigners to reveal the strength of feeling by business owners who say there are wider benefits of reopening the 1930s theatre.

Group spokesman Geoff Fitzpatrick said he was delighted so many traders had signed up to back the bid.

Among those to support the campaign are bosses at the landmark Station Hotel opposite the former theatre, where many public meetings have been held.

Deputy manager Jason Lewis-Young said the hotel, where many of the performers such as George Formby once stayed, was behind the campaigners.

"We are fully supporting them all the way because we can see that the Hippodrome would bring wider benefits to town," he said.

"Places like the Black Country Living Museum, the zoo and the caverns are the gems of Dudley and we should be passionate about anything that would help bring more people to Dudley."

Other businesses backing the group are Harpers Florists and John Green Butchers in the Fountain Arcade, off the High Street.

Dudley Council's planning department is yet to make a decision on the application to demolish the building.

Check vehicles reminder

A ROAD safety group is appealing to motorists to keep their vehicles well-maintained for spring. With the clocks going forward The Safer Roads Partnership is reminding drivers to make sure vehicles are ready for the new season. Spokesman Anna Higgins said, The Safer Roads Partnership wants motorists to make a few simple checks.

Casting for the future



Ian Austin MP chats to apprentices Nathan Tucker, left, and Aaron Mills at the college which is offering course in metal casting

APPRENTICES will be able to learn one of the oldest metalwork techniques thanks to new courses in Dudley.

Casting skills are going to be taught at Dudley College, which is working with the manufacturing industry.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin met new recruits on the course who have started training at one of the borough's well-known companies.

He joined staff at bathroom products manufacturer Thomas Dudley Ltd for the launch of the two-year course marking National Appren-

ticeship Week. He said: "At a time when almost a million young people are unemployed, it's great to see local youngsters being given the chance to develop the skills needed to take the hi-tech, highly-skilled jobs of the future."

Thomas Dudley has helped develop the course in partnership with others including Charter Castings, Boro Foundry Ltd, Castings Plc, JJ Siddons and the Institute of Cast Metal Engineers. So far, nine apprentices have started and are all employed by the engineering companies within the partnership.

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NEWS



A view of the Porters Field development, which will include a supermarket, restaurants, cafe and gym from Dudley bus station

Project aims to breathe new life into town centre

ARTISTS' impressions have been unveiled showing how a multi-million pound regeneration project would breathe new life into the heart of Dudley town centre.

The Porters Field development earmarked for the site of an old office block includes a supermarket, restaurants, cafes and a gym. It would bring 500 jobs to the town.

The 10 acre area is bordered by the Dudley Southern Bypass and Birmingham Street and includes the 'L' shaped Cavendish House and several other lower level buildings in Hall Street and Trindle Road.

Under the plan by developer Avenbury, the units in Hall Street would be converted into shops, offices, restaurants and food takeaways.

A two-level car park would be built

as well as a petrol station. Ed Grieve, a spokesman for Avenbury, said the scheme would boost the town centre economy, bringing shoppers back and providing competition with centres such as Merry Hill.

He said: "Porters Field represents an opportunity to kick start Dudley's economy and reverse its current decline."

He added: "Porters Field offers long-term benefit, whereas other plans only offer short term gain."

Opportunity

"The application would bring a wider range of shopping and leisure facilities, rather than just a food store, to the heart of Dudley."

The firm's outline planning application for the scheme was due to be approved by Dudley councillors on Tuesday following written recommendations from officers. The Porters

Field scheme is one of two that have been proposed for the Cavendish House site.

Cavendish Quarter Properties Ltd has already won approval to demolish the boarded-up office block to make way for a new supermarket, creating 300 new jobs and 200 during construction work. It also aims to create an attractive route for people walking to the High Street.

A total of 402 parking spaces would be created partly underneath the store and on two decked levels. The two separate developers each own pieces of land within the site, as do several other landowners including Dudley Council.

Avenbury held a consultation event, which attracted more than 700 people, on its plans in 2011. The developer claims 96 per cent of respondents were in support of its plan. Cavendish House has stood empty since a security firm moved out in 2008.

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COMPETITION

Tuning into this new audio range

MOBO award winner, Tinchy Stryder, joined forces with technology brand Goji last year and produced a dynamic and exciting collection of headphones and travel speakers, perfect for listening to music on the go.

The Goji Tinchy Stryder: On Cloud 9 range is available exclusively at Currys & PC World and features in ear, on ear and over ear headphones and two travel speakers.

To celebrate the arrival of spring, we're giving one lucky reader the chance to win the whole Goji Tinchy Stryder: On Cloud 9 range including one of each style of the headphones and both travel speakers as well as £300 to spend in store at your nearest Currys and PC World.

The collaboration between Tinchy Stryder and Goji, now in its second year, includes in-ear headphones priced at £29.99, on-ear headphones at £49.99 and over-ear headphones for £69.99. Available in three colours, rich red, dark black and polar white, the headphones provide a crystal clear sound; a tangle free cable and all come with a handy carry pouch.

The white travel speakers have built-in Bluetooth connectivity, come with rechargeable batteries and include a stylish carry pouch, retailing at £24.99. The black speakers also include a hands-free phone connection for conference calling and 12-hour playback, retailing at £39.99.

The Goji Tinchy Stryder: On Cloud 9 audio range has been designed with the style-conscious music lover in mind, balancing affordability and premium sound quality across all devices.

Tinchy Stryder comments: "I've spent a lot of time working closely with the Goji team to make sure that the headphones and speakers all look and sound great and I can't wait to get their feedback on the range."

"I'm proud of what Goji and I have achieved over the last year and I'm especially glad that the charity I work closely with - Vinspired - will benefit from the sales of my on-ear and over-ear headphones too."

● For the further details on the stylish range of products check out www.currys.co.uk/goji and www.pcworld.co.uk/goji



Currys PC World

HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer this question:

How many colours does the Goji Tinchy Stryder: On Cloud 9 headphone range come in?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to CURRYS Competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, April 11, 2012. No cash alternative. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final. Entrants must be 18 or over.

star★extra TRAVEL



CATS
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Day excursion, Saturday 13 April 2013

Don't miss CATS, Andrew Lloyd-Webber's extraordinary record-breaking, smash-hit musical as it returns to Manchester.

Adapted from TS Eliot's 'Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats', this wonderful blend of fantasy, drama and romance is set on the night that the Jellicle Cats meet for the Jellicle Ball in a sparkling fusion of music, dance and verse.

With an amazing musical score that includes the timeless "Memory", spectacular set designs, stunning costumes and breathtaking choreography, CATS is a magical musical like no other.

One of the longest-running shows in West End and Broadway history, CATS has enchanted audiences in over 300 cities around the world - now you too have the chance to experience this legendary musical phenomenon.

- A Gallery seat with a face value of £27.50 for the matinee performance of Cats at the Opera House Theatre, Manchester. Please note the Gallery is high with steep steps - if you wish to upgrade to Circle seats with a face value of £32, there is a supplement of £5pp
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IN MANCHESTER

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- A Grand Tier seat with a face value of £27.50 for a matinee performance of The Lion King at the Palace Theatre, Manchester
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WIDOW seeking similar aged male to share holidays and weekends out. Car owner preferred. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389795**

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883**

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361076**

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 359238**

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852**

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295**

ABBY is a passionate sexy girl seeking some fun times. **Tel: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 373603**

SUSAN 49, fun loving, 5ft 2ins, brown hair/eyes, many interests, needs heart mending. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 204862**

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325**

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368429**

CAROL, discreet, married, 47yrs seeks man for fun times. **Tel: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 400499**

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651**

TINA fun loving single mum who enjoys most things in life, seeking happy guy with GSOH for meals in, dates and possible romance and adult companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403567**

AMY 19yr old single female looking for much older naughty male for discreet fun times only. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403381**

SHARON medium built lovely, 39yrs, pale complexion, nice eyes, feminine, outgoing, confident, enjoys varied interests, WLTm all round nice guy for adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403345**

CAROL South African lonely heart 37yrs, looking for fun with mature gent 50plus, likes dining in/out, discretion assured/appreciated. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403337**

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CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852**

43YR old female, bubbly, down to earth, trustworthy, honest, caring, seeks male, 45 plus. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402945**

IRENE 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807**

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106**

BERNIE Beautiful black lady with no ties seeks her King, curvy, intelligent, feminine and all you will ever need, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402991**

Hil am Sara 21, a petite single mum, sporty, caring and looking for reliable, well groomed male 30-40yrs for adult 1-2-1. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402771**

NATALIE 30, attractive, size 12, black, seeking male for romantic fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387753**

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501**

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTm tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375825**

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313115**

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407**

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979**

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTm male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681**

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388297**

BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368528**

SLIM fit, bubbly female can't wait to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. AKA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367066**

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245**

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041**

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923**

ALISON 37 animal loving female who enjoys a quiet life, cooking, seeks older respectful male 42-60yrs to enjoy meals out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402793**

JEANETTE 35, blonde blue eyed attractive active nurse who really cares about people, WLTm someone genuine and honest to fall in love with. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402655**

LISA 30's tall slim beauty looking for dining partner to romance, pamper and appreciate me in return for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402645**

SINGLE MEN

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125.

(T&C's below).

SINGLE male, 60, WLTm local lady with strong physical needs for regular contact with no commitment initially. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377459**

ATTRACTIVE male, late 40's, seeks attractive female for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311713**

BRIAN 60's, ordinary man, strong needs, seeks affectionate lady for close friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396765**

ATTRACTIVE male, 55, seeks older female, 50-70 for close, adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397189**

60'S male, medium build, fit, high drive, seeks West Midlands lady who needs occasional male evening/weekend company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 381307**

MICHAEL 50, nice eyes, seeking female companion for holidays and weekends away, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401479**

MALE 5ft 8ins, athletic, GSOH, seeks older lady for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402357**

45YR old British Asian male, 5ft 9ins, slim-medium build, kind, caring, GSOH, likes romantic meals, nights in, films, music, walks, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403631**

GARY kind, caring, seeks special lady, any age for fun times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403585**

MIKE 45, bored, seeks female, any age for adult fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403461**

MALE 47, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, slim-medium build, likes nights out, GSOH, seeks special female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 302861**

JOHN 59, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, seeks lady, 46-50, slim, likes meals out and in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403273**

DARREN young looking 37, likes pubs, clubs, cinema, meals out, cosy nights in, seeks female 18-37. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392049**

CARL 40, likes DVDs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393766**

HARDWORKING 41yr old male, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403131**

KARL 40, fun loving, caring, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389662**

GENUINE good looking male, 38, seeking genuine female, 25-45 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392233**

WEST Midlands single guy 60, strong, WLTm affectionate lady, your place or mine for uncommitted enjoyment. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396807**

WARREN 60's, romantic, WLTm affectionate lady for evenings/weekend meetings and close friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392191**

32YR old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, caring, likes music, cycling, photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

VINCE 52, caring, seeking female for fun and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401683**

STEVE 63, tall, fit, young outlook, likes travel, socialising, holidays, N/S, seeks local lady, 55-60 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402931**

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368871**

SHROPSHIRE male, 53, tall, dark, attractive, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement, any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367373**

PAUL 60, medium build, fit, virile with strong needs, WLTm West Midland lady for regular mutual pleasure. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374821**

PATRICK 60's, single, likes sports, music, reading, seeks lady friend to share evenings/weekend meetings together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396053**

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157**

TALL dark, attractive guy, 49, seeks attractive, younger female for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 316752**

MALE 60, strong needs, seeks similar lady for regular evening/weekend meetings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384219**

GAY SINGLES

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www.localgaydate.co.uk

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892**

NEWS

Closure-hit brick factory still in use

IBSTOCK brick factory is to remain in use for the near future despite operations being wound down at the site.

Ibstock Brick announced the closure of its base in Tansey Green Road, Kingswinford, last July blaming the move on a decline in the demand for bricks.

But a small number of workers still remain at the site eight months after the announcement was first made and despite operations being scaled down.

Bosses have said the situation would continue for the time being as workers are needed to dispatch remaining products to customers and maintain site

security. A date has still to be set for when the factory will close. Consultation took place with the 31 employees following the closure announcement.

Around 10 staff were redeployed to other local factories operated by Ibstock. The firm blamed closure of the factory on tough trading conditions.

Alone

Officials said the drop in business had been ongoing and had forced bosses to have a rethink on how the firm operated.

Group marketing manager for Ibstock Brick, Andrew Halstead-Smith said, there was no closure date set.

"The staff which have been retained on site are continuing to work to dispatch remaining products to customers and maintain site security," he said.

"There is no further change to the situation at the present time."

The company was formed in the 1800s and has run the factory, in Kingswinford, for several years.

When the closure of the Kinswinford base was announced, bosses said the aim was to maintain "optimum operational efficiency" at the remaining factories.

In Dudley alone there used to be 25 brick works.

Mole catchers braced for a hole load more



Mole catchers Aaron Turner, left, of Wednesbury and Christian Hems, of Wordsley are expecting a bumper year

MOLE hills seem to popping up here, there and everywhere.

And according to pest control experts in the region there is likely to be an invasion of the burrowing creatures this year.

Small piles of soil have suddenly emerged along grass verges by the side of roads, and gardens have also been blighted.

Stourbridge mole catcher Christian Hems said he had been inundated with calls about the problem in the past month. The 40-year-old said: "We are in the middle of the breeding season but there seems to be more moles than ever before."

Breeding

"They come up to surface when they are looking for worms or a female mate."

"I think the moles have been breeding more often though because of all the rain we had last year. I expect a bumper amount of moles this year."

Mr Hems, from Wordsley, who started running pest control firm Pestforce about five years ago, labelled the A449 between Stafford and Wolverhampton as the "mole motorway".

"It's a bad stretch along there for moles," he said. "I don't do one-off jobs for people who live there because the moles always return straight away."

Museum receives £157,000 funding

MORE than £150,000 in arts funding has been awarded to cash-strapped Black Country Living Museum for official living through "turbulent times" must pull together.

Twelve museums will benefit from the Arts Council cash through support to develop new projects and improve leadership of the attractions.

It comes as the museum, in Tipton Road, Dudley, is

Hurt fruit merchant faces more surgery

A FRUIT merchant badly hurt after being dragged along while trying to stop his car being stolen faces further operations.

Stuart Timmins temporarily left hospital over the weekend but was due back for more leg surgery.

The 48-year-old is trying to keep his Lower Gornal firm running as he recovers.

He was in the warehouse at William Timmins' and Sons yard, Bird Street, on

surface are caused by excess soil pushed up to the surface from moles as they dig tunnels under the surface.

Brian Alderton, who helped set up the national British Traditional Molecatchers Register, where qualified mole catchers can be found and contacted, said: "The problem will be worse this year because of the recession and the weather last summer."

Mole catchers weren't able to do their jobs because of the heavy rains. And people aren't paying for a mole catcher service when money is so tight."

Mole hills near Lichfield caused by soil pushed upwards as tunnels are dug

Staffordshire mole catcher Jason Sales, aged 42, from Leek, does jobs in Eccleshall near Stafford. He said his workload had been rapidly building.

"I've got so much work on," he said. "The moles are breeding at the moment but there seems to be a lot more activity this year. It's great for me, the more work the better."

He said moles favoured digging near the surface on farmland where the soil was looser.

He also said they were attracted to "idle ground" such as grass verges on run alongside roads. Mole hills on the

Monday of last week as cars keys were taken. He tried to stop the 4x4 Mitsubishi, with an attached trailer full of apples, and clung to the driver's door but let go after travelling about 1,000ft.

Mr Timmins has had metal pins inserted but further surgery is needed because injuries are extensive and the procedure complicated. "It will be around three months before I am back on my feet" he said.

NEWS

Contracts are signed on new cancer therapy site

THE contract for a new Midlands radiotherapy centre has been signed paving the way for construction work to start.

Contractors will start building the centre on the existing accident and emergency department car park at Worcestershire Royal Hospital, Worcester later this month. The £24 million project, being co-ordinated by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust will mean shorter trips for patients from Kidderminster.

Preparation work for the centre, which has been in the pipeline for around five years, has started with the site being cleared ready for construction. It will be a welcome boost for patients in the county who have to travel to Wolverhampton, Coventry or Gloucester for their cancer treatment.

It will have five radiotherapy bunkers, two CT scanner rooms, two treatment rooms and three consultancy rooms. There would also be administrative offices, workshops and control rooms, reception and waiting room areas.

Adel Makar, consultant urological surgeon and lead cancer clinician for Worcestershire said: "This exciting new development will be the focus point for more specialist services developments for patients. This constitutes a statement of intent to our commitment as a Trust and a health economy to developing and delivering state of the art local services."

Chief executive Penny Venables, said: "The new radiotherapy centre will ensure the vast majority of radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatments will be delivered within Worcestershire."

Appeal to find relatives

THE Black County Coroner's Court is appealing for relatives of a man from Wolverhampton who died last month. The appeal wants to find any family of 76-year-old Roy Jones who lived in Fieldhouse Road, Parkfields. He died on March 17. Anyone with information can call 0845 352 7490.

Golden couple ride high



Golden wedding – John and Margaret Jones with one of their bikes

DUDLEY couple John and Margaret Jones were riding high as they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

The couple from Quarry Bank are familiar faces at the Black Country Living Museum as Margaret, 70, has worked there as a guide, while John, 72, has displayed his vintage bicycles. John and Margaret, who

married at Quarry Bank Church on March 9, 1963, have also been members of the Midland Section of The Veteran Cycle Club for several years.

Their daughter, Gaynor Soper, said: "They met through a mutual friend. They celebrated their anniversary with a small party, with family and friends."

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CLUB NEWS

Birthday
lunch is
arranged

New chairman set to fill Clark's shoes

WORDSLEY 'M' TWG

THE annual General Meeting took place in March and was opened by chairman of the day Wendy Lloyd who welcomed those attending.

The minutes of the previous group meeting, prepared by secretary Liz Moseley, were signed and treasurer Josie Bunn gave a detailed review of the accounts.

The federation is making plans for the annual lunch at The Mill, Alveley, on July 29. The annual Inter-Guild quiz takes place on June 3 at Stourbridge Football Club.

The birthday lunch is on the April 22 at the Himley Best Western Hotel, while the first garden/coffee morning of the year will be on Wednesday, April 25 at the home of Pat Hadley.

Secretary Liz reported on the previous year's activities, while the treasurer gave a detailed account of the year's transactions.

The chairman thanked the committee for their support throughout the year. Barbara Gregory took the chair to introduce the committee and officers for the forthcoming year.

Following the closure of the AGM Rosemary Skidmore organised games and Ann Birchell read poems before refreshments were served.

The next group meeting will be on April 15, with a talk by David Berry entitled 'Humorous Look at Retirement'.



Mary Clark flanked by treasurer Jill Yorke and officer secretary Marian Phipps

AT the AGM, outgoing chairman Mary Clark, was presented with a bouquet in recognition of her services to the guild.

Mary has been a very active member for many years and has served as chairman on three occasions over a total of seven years. With Mary in the picture are long-serving treasurer Jill Yorke and new officer secretary Marian Phipps.

It was a very successful AGM and a full committee of 10 members was raised.

SEDGLEY EVENING TWG

As there was no speaker, the evening was left free for a social chat, cup of tea and a cake. The club is now looking forward to this year's programme which will be unveiled at the next meeting. Meetings are on the third Monday in the month at Sedgley Community Centre at 7.15pm.

Speakers booked for year

GRANGE 'E' guild held its AGM at Grange Court, Prescott Road, Stourbridge on March 5.

Retiring secretary Gillian Wakefield read the minutes of the previous AGM. A new committee was elected and newly-appointed secretary Jean Williams presented

GRANGE 'E' TWG

gifts to members of the retiring committee and thanked them for all their hard work.

Jean reported that the guild had a full programme of speakers for the coming

year. The guild meets on the first Tuesday of every month, except January, and is presently recruiting for new members.

To join the guild or to come along as a guest, ring secretary Jean Williams on 01384 832439 for further information.

NEWS FEATURE

Pace so fast and furious in the sport of dodgeball

The dynamic game of dodgeball is becoming popular. Tom Mason learns about ducking and diving from a recently-formed team

LOVERS of a unique sport are travelling far and wide across the Black Country to get their fix of a game that lasts only four minutes – dodgeball.

Made famous in this country by Ben Stiller's film of the same name, dodgeball is a fast paced game that requires brain as well as brawn as balls fly back and forth down the pitch, hitting players, bouncing off walls and occasionally being carefully dodged.

With the words of the film's anti-hero Patches O'Houlihan, "Dodge, duck, dip, dive and dodge" ringing heavy in my ears, I entered a practice session with the Walsall Warriors, one of the first teams in the Black Country's, to find out about the sport.

Skilful

The basic rules are simple, two teams of six players must fight for control of three balls, if you are hit by a ball before it bounces you are out and if your ball is caught by the opposition you are out and one of their players is allowed back in.

Games are fast and furious, with each only taking four minutes.

The Warriors are one of eight teams in the newly-formed Cannock League of the Midlands Dodgeball League. Matched take place weekly, with two teams playing each other over the best of 10 games.

Adam Cooke, aged 18, travels more than seven miles from Tipton to Walsall to play the game he loves, he said: "The reason I like it is that it's



Dodge that - members of the recently-formed Walsall Warriors dodgeball team gang up on the club's founder Glyn Maston during a training session

more skilful than football and far less competitive.

"With most other sport it's difficult to get to the top but with dodgeball it's far easier to reach the top of the game."

The Warriors were set up three months ago by 50-year-old Glyn Marston, from Walsall, a man known more for his long distance runs than his love of dodgeball.

After retiring from running seven years ago due to a knee injury he grew tired of doing nothing.

He said: "We have had a lot of interest but some people still see it as an aggressive game."

"I want the club to be part of the community as it's a good sport for youngsters to get involved in, it helps

get rid of a lot of frustration and energy."

Chelsie Guy, 16, from Willenhall was one of the first players to join, she said: "It's a really good way of getting fit and is a brilliant way of getting you out of the house I really enjoy playing the game."

The club hopes to start a second club, Walsall Wallabies, for younger players and is also seeking sponsors from local firms to help them buy their first official red and black kit.

If you would like to take part, the club meets every Monday from 7.15pm to 9.15pm at Willenhall Chart Centre Gomer Street, Willenhall, For more information call Glyn on 07588249358.

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WILLIAMS**

Wednesday, June 19

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After three spectacular sell-out shows at London's O2 Arena in November, Robbie Williams is to perform at Manchester's Etihad Stadium next June.

One of the world's most successful recording artists, with a record 17 Brit Awards, 10 UK number one albums and seven UK number one singles including Angels and Millennium, the Take That star is expected to perform tracks from his recent album Take the Crown, which went straight in at number one along with its lead single Candy, the fast-selling male artist single of 2012.

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What's On! Stourbridge

REVIEW

**Michael Jackson:
The Immortal World Tour
Cirque du Soleil,
B'ham NIA**

WELL This Is It, the Cirque du Soleil tribute show to the legendary Michael Jackson.

Flashing lights – and costumes – and loud thumping music added to the atmosphere at the packed NIA and the show was not at all Bad.

With fewer than the usual Cirque tricks this really was just a reminder of Jacko's superb music and dance and the acrobatic circus-style tricks served to illustrate the media circus that surrounded his life.

The dancers were superb with custom-made costumes, ghoulish Thriller mummies, Smooth Criminal fedoras and Billie Jean sequined jackets.

The gates of the Neverland Ranch provided the backdrop to this extravagant travelling show and the tour aims to show Jackson's global message of love, peace and unity.

High energy routines to Smooth Criminal, Dangerous and Thriller contrasted with the poignant I Just Can't Stop Loving You which played as two of the performers showed their skills with a stunning rope acrobatic display.

The background film footage traced his life from The Jackson 5 days with the memorable I'll Be There to his later life. The downside was the frequent flashing lights which made it difficult to actually focus on the dance and the performers. But I am sure Jacko would think they did him proud.

SUE ATTWATER

Jasper beats the Brum with show of nostalgia

BRUMMIE funnyman Jasper Carrott has teamed up with one of his oldest friends for a new rock and pop show which is touring around Midlands venues in April and May.

Made In Brum will use music and comedy for a nostalgic look back at the people, places and songs which made the sixties Brumbeat scene such an influential one.

Jasper's lifelong pal Bev Bevan, formerly of Brummie rock icons The Move and ELO, has assembled an all-star band featuring ex-Move guitarist Trevor Burton, former guitarist of The Rockin' Berries Geoff Turton, Quill vocalist Joy Strachan-Brain and rock 'n' roll singer Danny King.

The show promises great music, anecdotes and of course a lot of laughs along the way.

Tickets are going fast, with all three nights at Lichfield Garrick Theatre already sold out and only a few seats remaining for the additional show on May 9.

Other confirmed dates include Dudley Town Hall, April 11, Birmingham Alexandra Theatre, April 25 and 26, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre (May 25) and Sutton Coldfield Town Hall (May 30).

Tickets are available from the venues or on the booking hotline 0121 323 2200.



Brummie Jasper Carrott



Gwen Taylor, as Daisy Werthan, and Don Warrington, as Hoke Coleburn, in Driving Miss Daisy, which is being staged at Wolverhampton Grand Photo: Nicholas Dawkes

Poignant drama is to drive in

HAVING enjoyed sell-out runs on Broadway and in the West End, David Esbjornson's award-winning production of Alfred Uhry's Driving Miss Daisy motors in to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, April 9 to 11, as part of an extended tour.

The production stars Gwen Taylor, from Coronation Street, as Daisy Werthan, and Don Warrington, from Rising Damp and Death in Paradise, as her driver Hoke Coleburn. The cast also features Ian Porter as Boolie Werthan.

The play tells of the relationship between an elderly Jewish widow and her African American chauffeur in 1940s Atlanta. It was a hit film starring Jessica Tandy and Morgan Freeman.

REVIEW

**The Union,
The Slade Rooms**
SOMETIMES the demise of a band is the catalyst for the birth of something wonderful.

When 80s rockers Thunder announced their albeit temporary split in the late noughties, guitarist Luke Morley and bassist Chris Childs linked up with Pete Shoulder, vocalist supreme from one-album northerners, Winterville, to form The Union.

Three albums later and the blues rockers have moved on from the Thunderesque to find their own unique blend of blues rock.

Fans picked Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms for a set which combined meaty rock, sublime blues and heartbreaking ballads. Opening on a high with the fast-paced Step Up To the Plate, the four-piece strolled through their tight set with ease. You're My Jesus and Fading Out of Love from new album The World is Yours mixed effortlessly with the beautiful Saviour, along with the infectious Black Gold from album No. 2.

The band gives the illusion that it has been around for much longer than its three years – may this Union live on.

DEBBIE BENNETT

Acoustic appeal

ACOUSTIC American singer Nell Bryden is appearing at The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton on June 3. Tickets are £10. She recently supported Gary Barlow at the Civic.



Jonathon and Stacey

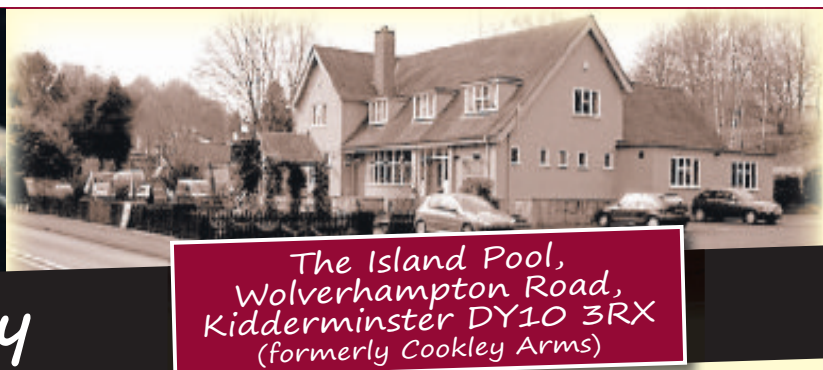
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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 6.04.13

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CHOICE	BBC1	BBC2	ITV	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	DIGITAL
 <p>Sid James</p> <p>The Many Faces of Sid James BBC2, 7.30pm Did Sid James have many faces? Only one really springs to mind, and although it was usually described in less-than-flattering terms (one critic once wrote that it resembled "an unmade bed"), it was, in a sense, his fortune. Sid was instantly recognisable, nobody else looked quite like him, which meant he was memorable – a trait every would-be star needs. This documentary examines the Carry On star's extraordinary life and career, from his early years in South Africa to his success as an actor in the UK.</p>	<p>6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Cooking. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Regional News. Weather. 12.15 Football Focus. 1.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 3.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.00 Final Score. 5.10 Pointless Celebrities. (R) 5.55 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.</p> <p>6.15 Doctor Who. Clara wants to see something awesome, so the Doctor whisks her off to the inhabited rings of the planet Akhaten – where an ancient ceremony soon turns very grim.</p> <p>7.00 The Voice UK. Holly Willoughby and Reggie Yates host the second round of the talent contest, with judges Tom Jones, Jessie J, Will.i.am and Danny O'Donoghue.</p> <p>8.30 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.</p> <p>9.20 Casualty. Two schoolgirls are brought in after being injured during a science exam, but when tensions rise between the pair, Zoe has to act as peacemaker to reconcile them.</p> <p>10.10 BBC News. Weather.</p> <p>10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Reading v Southampton. National Lottery Update.</p> <p>11.30 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.</p> <p>12.55 Film: Deadline. (2009) 2.15 Weatherview. 2.20 BBC News.</p>	<p>6.00 This is BBC Two. 6.40 Film: Irene. (1940) 8.05 Film: Odette. (1950) 10.00 A History of Britain by Simon Schama. (R) 11.00 Climbing Great Buildings. (R) 11.30 Map Man. (R) 12.05 Country Show Cook Off. (R) 12.35 Country Show Cook Off. (R) 1.05 Country Show Cook Off. (R) 1.35 Country Show Cook Off. (R) 2.05 Country Show Cook Off. (R) 2.35 Mastermind. (R) 3.35 University Challenge. (R) 4.05 Flot It! (R) 5.05 The Great British Sewing Bee. (R)</p> <p>6.05 Film: Carry On Again, Doctor. (1969) A disgraced surgeon sets up a clinic in the hope of promoting a slimming potion. Comedy, starring Sid James and Kenneth Williams.</p> <p>7.30 The Many Faces of Sid James. Profile of the comic actor who is best known as the star of many Carry On films, tracing his career from his early days on Hancock's Half Hour to his 1970s sitcom Bless This House.</p> <p>8.30 Dad's Army. The platoon is picked to appear in an army training film. (R)</p> <p>9.00 QI XL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended edition of the quiz, with Sandi Toksvig, Clive Anderson, Henning Wehn and Alan Davies answering questions on the topics of inequality and injustice. (R)</p> <p>9.45 Film: Coriolanus. (2011) Premiere. A general's political career ends in exile, so he sides with an old foe to get revenge. Shakespearean drama, directed by and starring Ralph Fiennes. With Gerard Butler.</p> <p>11.40 Film: Shout at the Devil. (1976) An action feature, starring Lee Marvin.</p> <p>1.50 This is BBC Two.</p>	<p>6.00 CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. 6.25 The Hive. (R) 6.35 The Hive. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Dino Dan. (R) 7.10 Canimals. (R) 7.20 Canimals. (R) 7.25 Bookaboo. 7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) 8.05 Ultimate Spider-Man. 8.30 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 8.45 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 9.00 Jessie. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 10.25 My Tasty Travels, with Lynda Bellingham. (R) 11.25 Dinner Date. (R) 12.25 Countrywise. (R) 12.35 ITV News; Weather. 12.50 Film: Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle. (1972) 2.25 Film: Escape to Victory. (1981) 4.30 The Chase. (R) 5.30 Regional Programme; Weather. 5.45 ITV News; Weather.</p> <p>6.00 You've Been Framed Rides Again! Harry Hill narrates a compilation show featuring some of the funniest clips sent in by viewers. (R)</p> <p>7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The Georgie duo battle it out one final time in Ant v Dec: Into the Unknown and the cast of Jersey Boys perform. Jonathan Ross is in the voiceover booth.</p> <p>8.20 The Cube. A former Butlins Redcoat and an estate agent try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks in the hope of winning a jackpot of £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts.</p> <p>9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Ben Kingsley, Audrey Tautou, Carl Froch and Ait-J.</p> <p>10.20 ITV News. Weather.</p> <p>10.35 Film: I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry. (2007) Comedy, starring Adam Sandler and Kevin James.</p> <p>12.40 Jackpot247. 3.00 Ladette to Lady. Australia. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.</p>	<p>6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 Freesports on 4. 7.05 British GT. 7.30 The Grid. 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.30 The Morning Line. 10.30 Saturday Brunch. 1.00 The Grand National. 5.10 Five Minutes to a Fortune. 6.10 Channel 4 News.</p> <p>6.35 Stephen Fry's Best Gadgets. Highlights from Gadget Man, the show in which the broadcaster shares his passion for technology.</p> <p>7.00 Sarah Beeny's Selling Houses. Homeowners in Maidstone, Kent, look around one another's properties for improvement ideas and then spruce up their own on a £1,000 budget, hoping to attract buyers.</p> <p>8.00 Walking Through History. Tony Robinson embarks on a five-day expedition along Dorset's Jurassic coast to explore the county's role in protecting Britain from invasion during the Second World War.</p> <p>9.00 Film: Taken. (2008) A former CIA agent puts his old skills to use in rescuing his daughter from a gang of European sex traffickers. Thriller, starring Liam Neeson, Famke Janssen and Maggie Grace.</p> <p>10.50 Darren Brown: Miracles for Sale. The showman investigates the reality behind faith healing in America, and chooses an unsuspecting member of the British public to adopt the guise of pastor and "miracle" worker. (R)</p> <p>12.25 The Grand National Highlights. 1.15 Film: Ju-On: The Grudge 2. 2.55 Hollyoaks. 5.05 Deal or No Deal. (R)</p>	<p>6.00 Milkshake! 10.15 Power Rangers Samurai. (R) 10.50 Batman: The Brave and the Bold. 11.15 How Do They Do It? (R) 11.50 Film: Guns of the Magnificent Seven. (1969) 1.55 Film: David Copperfield. (2000) 5.35 5 News Weekend. 5.40 Film: Raid on Rommel. (1971)</p> <p>7.25 CSI: NY. A businesswoman is found dead under an ice sculpture with her heart completely frozen. The investigators identify liquid nitrogen as the cause and discover lots of suspects. (R)</p> <p>8.10 5 News Weekend.</p> <p>8.15 NCIS. The team flies to Israel, but receives a hostile reception from Ziva's father, who is the head of Mossad – and Gibbs is forced to make a tough decision. (R)</p> <p>9.10 NCIS. Tony travels to North Africa on the trail of missing agent Ziva, but is taken hostage by terrorists in Somalia and given an ultimatum. (R)</p> <p>10.10 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A serial killer targets the children of immigrants and the chief suspect's lawyer insists his client has been brainwashed by right-wing propaganda on a talk show.</p> <p>11.05 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. Stevens suspects an innocent man may have been sent to the electric chair when the killing of a prostitute bears all the hallmarks of the murders for which he was executed.</p> <p>12.05 SuperCasino. 4.00 Nick's Quest. (R) 4.50 County Secrets. (R) 5.05 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.15 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.25 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.35 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.50 Hana's Helpline. (R)</p>	<p>BBC Three 7.00 Merlin 8.30 Film: Shrek Forever After (2010) 10.00 Live at the Apollo 11.00 Family Guy 11.45 American Dad!</p> <p>BBC Four 7.00 South Pacific 8.00 David Attenborough's First Life 9.00 Arne Dahl. New series. Swedish crime thriller, starring Irene Lindh. 10.30 Goodbye Television Centre</p> <p>ITV2 1.45 Film: Peter Pan (2003) 4.00 You've Been Framed! 6.00 Film: Uncle Buck (1989). Family comedy, starring John Candy. 8.00 Film: The Mummy (1999). Action adventure, starring Brendan Fraser. 10.20 Celebrity Juice 11.10 Plebs 11.40 Film: The Interpreter (2004)</p> <p>ITV3 2.55 A Touch of Frost 4.55 Agatha Christie's Marple 7.00 Lewis. A student and a well-known criminal are murdered. 9.00 Endeavour 11.00 A Touch of Frost</p> <p>ITV4 1.45 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Delhi Daredevils v Rajasthan Royals and Chennai Super Kings v Mumbai Indians. 8.00 British Touring Car Championship Highlights 9.30 Film: Carlito's Way (1993)</p> <p>E4 3.05 Charmed 4.00 Rules of Engagement 5.30 The Mindy Project 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Youngers 7.30 Happy Endings 8.00 How I Met Your Mother 8.30 2 Broke Girls 9.00 Film: Trading Places (1985) 11.20 The Big Bang Theory</p> <p>Film4 2.55 Murder at the Gallop (1963) 4.35 Spirited Away (2002) 7.00 The Day the Earth Stood Still (2008) 9.00 What Lies Beneath (2000) 11.30 Sorority Row (2009)</p>

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 7.04.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Stephen Mulhern

Catchphrase
ITV, 6.45pm
'It's good, but it's not right,' remains one of the best-loved game show catchphrases of the past 20 years, largely because of host Roy Walker. Between 1986 and 1999, the Northern Irish comedian owned that jovial series, but while Nick Weir and Mark Curry later attempted to breathe new life into the format, by the end of December 2002, it seemed that was that. Now, after a long rest, it's Stephen Mulhern's turn asking contestants and audiences to "say what they see". As ever, players compete to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.55 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Flog It! 12.00 BBC News; Weather. 12.10 Points of View. 12.25 Countryfile. (R) 1.20 Bargain Hunt. 2.20 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 3.20 Walk on the Wild Side - Best in Show. 3.50 Fake Britain. (R) 4.20 Escape to the Country. (R) 5.20 Songs of Praise. 6.05 **Deadly 60 on a Mission. Wild alligators, bobcats, salamanders and rattlesnakes in Florida. **6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 7.00 Countryfile.** Matt Baker and Julia Bradbury are in Northamptonshire, visiting the Grand Union Canal and the county's hidden heritage sites. Tom Heap reports on Britain's booming deer population. **8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the experts visit Cheltenham Town Hall, where items include a table with carved horse hooves for legs and espionage messages used in the Second World War. **9.00 The Village.** John is drinking heavily as the Middleton farm falls on hard times, leading to a shocking revelation about his past mistakes. Caro's mental health takes a downturn. **10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 10.25 Match of the Day 2.** Including action from Tottenham Hotspur v Everton. **11.45 Football League Trophy Highlights. 12.25 The Sky at Night. 12.45 Film: Evening. (2007) 2.35 Weatherview. 2.40 BBC News.****

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.30 Film: Hell Drivers. (1957) 8.15 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.45 The A to Z of TV Gardening. 9.30 The Beechgrove Garden. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bits. 11.30 Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) 12.00 EastEnders. (R) 1.55 Triathlon. 3.30 The Great Rift: Africa's Wild Heart. (R) 4.30 Secrets of Our Living Planet. (R) 5.30 Coast. (R) 6.30 **Donald Campbell: Speed King. Profile of the man who set eight world speed records on water and land in the 1950s and 60s, using archive footage and first-hand testimonies of those who knew him. (R) **7.30 Live MotoGP.** Matt Roberts presents coverage of the Qatar Grand Prix at the Losail International Circuit in Doha (Start-time 8.00pm), where the opening race of the season takes place. **9.00 Toughest Place to Be a Fisherman - The Return.** Andy Giles revisits the Sierra Leone village he worked in 18 months ago. **10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Science and Technology.** Another themed selection from the show's archives. **10.30 It's Kevin.** Comedian Kevin Eldon takes a trip backstage with trusty studio caretaker Bob. **11.00 Film: Dead Poets Society. (1989)** A teacher at a staid New England school in the 1950s raises eyebrows by encouraging his pupils to live life beyond their expectations. Drama, with Robin Williams and Ethan Hawke. **1.00 Sign Zone: A Very British Wedding. (R) 2.00 Holly City. (R) 3.00 This Is BBC Two.****

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jungle Junction. 6.15 Jungle Junction. 6.25 The Hive. (R) 6.35 The Hive. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Dino Dan. (R) 7.10 Animals. (R) 7.20 Animals. (R) 7.25 Bookaboo. 7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) 8.05 Kick Buttowski - Suburban Daredevil. 8.15 Kick Buttowski - Suburban Daredevil. 8.30 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 8.45 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 9.00 The Aquabats Super Show. (R) 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 10.25 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 11.15 ITV News; Weather. 11.25 Film: Columbus: Swan Song. (1974) 1.35 I Love You've Been Framed! (R) 2.35 Doc Martin. (R) 3.35 Food Glorious Food. (R) 4.35 Film: The Scorpion King. (2002) Fantasy, starring Dwayne Johnson. **6.15 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 6.45 Catchphrase. 7.00 Off Their Rockers. New series. Senior citizens play pranks on the public. **8.00 Foyle's War.** The detective is drawn into the strange murder of a former high-ranking Nazi who had been hired by MI5 due to his expert knowledge of Soviet intelligence. Last in the series. **10.00 Perspectives: Portillo on Picasso.** Michael Portillo explores the life and work of Pablo Picasso. **11.00 ITV News; Weather. 11.15 Who Killed My Dad? - The Death of Terry Lloyd.** The war reporter's daughter returns to the scene of his death in Iraq. (R) **12.25 The Store. 2.30 Monk. (R) 3.10 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)****

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 FIA GT1. 7.30 Triathlon. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.55 The Simpsons. (R) 1.25 The Simpsons. (R) 1.55 Film: A Knight's Tale. (2001) Comedy adventure, starring Heath Ledger. 4.30 Deal or No Deal. 5.30 The Real King's Speech. (R) 6.30 **Channel 4 News. 7.00 Nick Hower: Countdown to Freetown. The Countdown host embarks on a mission to tow an industrial saw and generator 5,000 miles to the capital of Sierra Leone, where he will present his gift to a young carpenter. **8.00 The Secret Millions.** Dave Fishwick opens a job centre to find work for young people from challenging backgrounds, aiming to introduce employers to candidates they would not normally consider hiring. **9.00 Film: The King's Speech. (2010)** Premiere. The son of George V seeks the help of an eccentric Australian speech therapist as he rises suddenly to the throne. Fact-based drama, with Colin Firth and Geoffrey Rush. **11.20 Film: Nine to Five. (1980)** Three female office employees grow weary of their chauvinistic boss and set out to teach him a lesson. Comedy, starring Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dabney Coleman. **1.20 Film: Sherrybaby. (2006)** 3.00 Southland. (R) 3.40 St Elsewhere. (R) 4.30 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.25 Deal or No Deal. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifi and the Floortortles. (R) 6.25 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 6.30 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.45 Olive the Ostrich. (R) 6.50 Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) 7.00 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.05 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.20 Animal Antics. (R) 7.25 Woddy in Toyland. (R) 7.40 City of Friends. (R) 7.50 Little Princess. (R) 8.05 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.20 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 8.30 Mio Mao. (R) 8.40 Castle Farm. (R) 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) 9.30 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.45 Jelly Jam. (R) 10.00 Power Rangers Samurai. (R) 10.35 Batman: The Brave and the Bold. 11.00 Cowboy Builders. (R) 12.00 Film: Pochi's Grand Adventure: The Search for Christopher Robin. (1997) 1.30 Film: Adventures in Babysitting. (1987) 3.20 Film: Tinker Bell and the Lost Treasure. (2008) 4.55 5 News Weekend. 5.00 Film: Practical Magic. (1998) **6.50 Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous. (2005) Comedy sequel, starring Sandra Bullock. **9.00 Once Upon a Time.** New series. The fantasy drama returns. The people of Storybrooke remember their past lives. **10.00 Person of Interest. 10.55 Film: Bulletproof. (1996)** Action comedy, starring Adam Sandler. **12.35 Campus PD. 1.05 SuperCasino. 4.00 Nick's Quest. (R) 4.50 County Secrets. (R) 5.05 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.15 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.25 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.35 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.50 Hana's Helpline. (R)****

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 The Voice UK 8.35 Film: How to Train Your Dragon (2010) 10.00 Barely Legal Drivers 11.00 Family Guy 11.50 American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 Vatican - The Hidden World 8.00 Mark Lawson Talks to Michael Ball 9.00 Motor Racing at the BBC: That Petrol Emotion 9.30 Caravans: A British Love Affair 10.30 From the Sea to the Land Beyond: Britain's Coast on Film 11.45 Les Mis at 25: Matt Lucas Dreams the Dream
ITV2
9.50 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway 5.10 You've Been Framed! 6.10 Film: Babe (1995) 8.00 You've Been Framed! Funniest 100 9.00 Film: The Holiday (2006) 11.40 Celebrity Juice
ITV3
2.50 Film: The Pure Hell of St Trinian's (1960) 4.40 Wycliffe 5.50 Agatha Christie's Poirot 7.55 An Audience with Diana Ross 9.00 Film: Bird on a Wire (1990) 11.15 Agatha Christie's Marple
ITV4
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. 8.00 Brian Lara: Sports Life Stories 9.00 Cycling: Paris-Roubaix Highlights 10.00 Film: American Gangster (2007)
E4
5.00 Revenge 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 New Girl 7.30 The Mindy Project 8.00 Film: Big Momma's House (2000) 10.00 Rude Tube 11.00 The Body Shocking Show 11.30 The Big Bang Theory
Film4
3.00 The Cat Returns (2002) 4.35 The Golden Compass (2007) 6.45 The Jewel of the Nile (1985) Comedy adventure sequel, starring Michael Douglas. **9.00 Unknown (2011) 11.15 Memento (2000)**

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Lone Rider, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A veteran of the American Civil War returns to his home town to discover a former friend, who has become a ruthless land baron, is intent on seizing his father's ranch, forcing the hardened soldier to take up arms once more to protect his family and property. Western, starring Lou Diamond Phillips. (2008)

Young Guns, Channel 5, 11pm

Petty crook Billy the Kid is taken in by English farmer John Tunstall and given a job as a ranch hand. However, when Tunstall is murdered by a business rival, Billy and the rest of his 'regulators' set out to avenge his death, leading them into conflict with the law – and marking the start of Billy's notoriety as a gunslinger. Western, with Emilio Estevez. (1988)

TUESDAY

The Ladykillers, BBC1, 11.35pm

A criminal mastermind posing as a professor rents a room in the Deep South from an elderly woman in a bid to tunnel through her basement to a nearby casino. However, the unsuspecting landlady unintentionally gets in the way of his plans. Tom Hanks stars. (2004)



Young Guns, Monday, Channel 5, 11pm

WEDNESDAY

Ladder 49, BBC1, 11.05pm

A fireman becomes trapped in a burning building and, aware his chances of survival are slim, reflects on the events that led him to his chosen career. He recalls his rise from the station's laughing stock to a respected member of the team, and the effect his dangerous profession has had on his family. Meanwhile, his mentor is battling to get him out of the building alive. Drama, with Joaquin Phoenix and John Travolta. (2004)

THURSDAY

One Mile Away, Channel 4, 11.10pm

Penny Woolcock's documentary charts the efforts of warring gangs the Burger Bar Boys and the Johnson Crew to bring peace to their neighbourhoods in inner-city Birmingham. (2012)

FRIDAY

Paycheck, BBC1, 11.55pm

An engineer carries out a top-secret job on the understanding that his knowledge of the task will be erased from his mind afterwards to protect his employer's intellectual property. However, waking after the memory-wiping procedure, he is shocked to learn he had somehow agreed to waive the huge payment due to him – and is wanted for a murder he does not remember committing. John Woo's thriller, starring Ben Affleck, Uma Thurman and Aaron Eckhart. (2003)

Pick of the Week

Boxing match sets the alarm bells ringing

There's nothing like a good, old-fashioned reunion, is there? At first glance, The Security Men doesn't seem to be contain one, but if you look a little deeper, there are a couple...

Initially, you may think that the pairing of Caroline Aherne and Bobby Ball is a strange one. Okay, so they're both well-known for their collaborations with others – Ball with his long-standing comedy partner Tommy Cannon and Aherne most notably with Craig Cash, with whom she created The Royle Family – but their comedy styles have little in common.

But they're together for this new offering, and not for the first time either – their first collaboration came with The Fastest Man in Britain, which aired in 2009.

That one-off comedy drama also featured Brendan O'Carroll, who appears here too, and was co-written by Aherne and Joe Pope; they've created this series, for which ITV's head honchos have very high hopes indeed. ITV's director of entertainment and comedy Elaine Bedell says of it: "We're absolutely

delighted to be working with Caroline and Jeff, two writers at the top of their game.

"I'm a huge fan of both and believe together they have created some of the best comedy scripts for television.

"Combined with the talent and wit of our cast, The Security Men is a very fresh and exciting project for ITV."

Sadly Aherne won't be acting in the series, but Ball and O'Carroll will be joined on screen by Paddy McGuinness, Peter Wight and Dean Andrews.

The plot of each episode focuses on the working lives of security guards working the night shift at a fictional Manchester shopping centre called The Whittington.

The guards are supposed to spend their time making sure the place is safe and burglar-free; in reality, they're a bunch of work-shy individuals who would prefer to avoid working at all – in fact, they expend far more energy avoiding the watchful eye of their boss than they do carrying out their duties.

The first episode sees them desperate to watch a televised boxing match, and think they've worked out a way to make it possible – if they switch off the alarms they can enter an electrical store and simply watch the bout on one of its big-screen, surround-sound, state-of-the-art TVs.

What can possibly go wrong? Well, as you may have guessed, an awful lot in a very short space of time...

If The Security Men takes off, will this mean the end of The Royle Family? Aherne hasn't made a decision on that, but seeing as the last few Christmas specials featuring the layabout clan have been rather disappointing, few would be sad to say farewell to them – and perhaps the writer/director/actress could use a fresh start with new characters.

This is her first new comedy series for more than a decade, since the short-lived Dossa and Joe in 2002, and she could probably use a hit. Let's hope The Security Guards is it – and is worth waiting for.



Bobby Ball and Brendan O'Carroll star in The Security Men, Friday, ITV, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Broadchurch, ITV, 9pm

ITV isn't giving much away about this drama, and thank goodness for that. You may think you want to know exactly what's going on, but take a second to think about that – do you really want to know every single intricate twist and turn? Do you really want to know who killed Danny Latimer before anybody else? Okay, so it might be fine and dandy to have the kudos of being 'in the know', but that would soon wear off, and you'd be left wondering why you'd spoil the suspense for yourself. So... what can we tell you about this week's plot? Well, the locals are about to gather together to mourn Danny's passing. But while doing that, a new suspect in his murder comes to light.

The Prisoners

BBC1, 9pm

This new, three-part documentary series focuses on convicts stuck in a vicious circle – some of them, it seems, are no sooner let out onto the streets before reoffending and ending up back inside. The opening edition takes a look at the lives of inmates at Holloway Prison in London, which in the past has housed such infamous figures as Ruth Ellis, Myra Hindley, Diana Mosley and Maxine Carr. The women featured here aren't as notorious, but their lives are extraordinary in a way. Jayde is only 18 but this is her sixth spell in jail, while 23-year-old Crystal claims she feels at home at Holloway, having been a regular there for the past six years.

TUESDAY

UEFA Champions League Live, ITV, 7.30pm

Galatasaray host European giants Real Madrid in this quarter-final second-leg clash at the Turk Telekom Arena in Istanbul. With last week's reverse fixture at the Bernabeu fresh in their memories, both clubs will be looking to do enough here to book a place in the competition's semi-finals, and take the next step toward its conclusion at Wembley Stadium next month. Whatever the outcome of the first leg, the Turkish outfit will have to improve upon their home form in this season's competition, having won just once in front of their own fans, that being a 1-0 victory in the group stage against a depleted Manchester United side.

WEDNESDAY

Victoria Wood's Nice Cup of Tea, BBC1, 9pm

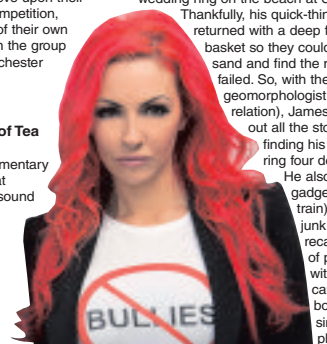
Apparently, this two-part documentary had the working title The Great British Cuppa, which made it sound like a televised contest to be judged by Mary Berry, with marks deducted for letting the leaves stew too long. Instead though, it's a two-part documentary which sees one national institution, Victoria Wood, celebrating the history of another, the cup of tea. But it seems the humble brew

hasn't always had such a cosy image. In the past, tea has helped to trigger wars – and aided Britain in winning them. Victoria's quest to find out how this small, exotic plant came to pay such a big part in British life takes her from the back streets of Kolkata to the mega city of Shanghai.

THURSDAY

James May's Man Lab, BBC2, 8pm

In Poole, 1973, James May Snr, lost his wedding ring on the beach at Sandbanks. Thankfully, his quick-thinking wife returned with a deep fat fryer basket so they could sieve the sand and find the ring. Alas, they failed. So, with the aid of geomorphologist Vincent May (no relation), James May Jr pulls out all the stops in the hope of finding his dad's beloved ring four decades on. He also develops a gadget (aka model train) which can filter junk mail, and recaptures the spirit of pirate radio, with the aid of a canal barge, a 3G box of tricks, six sim cards and plenty of other hi-tech gubbins.



Jodie Marsh: Bullied, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

Jodie Marsh: Bullied, Channel 5, 10pm

Last week we saw glamour model-turned-bodybuilder Jodie Marsh jet off to the USA on a fact-finding mission; she wanted to know how the American education system was dealing with bullying. What she discovered was rather enlightening, and now she wants to introduce some of its methods to the UK, where almost half of children claim they have suffered from some form of bullying. Jodie visits Carlton Community College in Barnsley, a school with a troubled past whose new headmaster, Neil Hutchinson, wants to turn its fortunes around – can Jodie and her anti-bullying campaigner friend Alex give him the help he needs?

FRIDAY

Isaac Newton: The Last Magician, BBC2, 9pm

At first glance, the title of this one-off documentary may seem a bit unlikely. After all, Isaac Newton is considered to be a genius, a great rationalist who laid the foundation for many scientific and mathematical breakthroughs. So, surely he didn't have a sideline in pulling rabbits out of hats? Well, no, but it turns out he did have an interest in the alchemy, heretical religion and the occult. His more controversial obsessions were glossed over in the wake of his death to protect his reputation, but when economist John Maynard Keynes bought Newton's papers in 1936, the truth began to emerge – and this documentary offers further insights into a complicated man.

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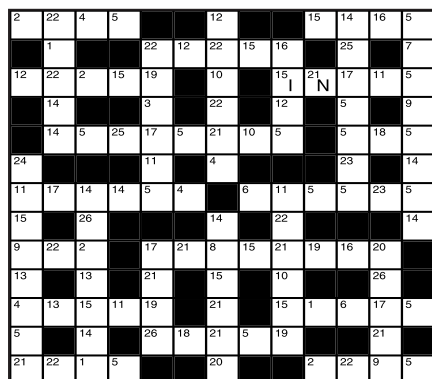
What's On!

Brain Gym

No.215

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

W	F	K	I	Z	T	Q	V	C	L	N	E	R
B	X	M	H	U	Y	A	S	O	P	D	G	J

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

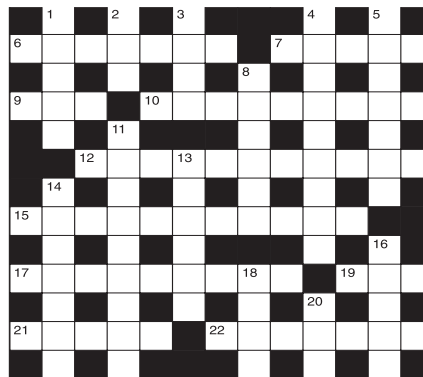
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Produce an eviction order? (4,3)
 7. Penny loaf? How funny! (5)
 9. How a motorist can correct a glaring error (3)
 10. She gets the theatre in an uproar (9)
 12. It describes Adam or I (5,6)
 15. Decline to acknowledge applause - and retire! (4,4,3)
 17. Rose spray? (9)
 19. The last thing one aims for (3)
 21. Feeling irritable? (5)
 22. Feeling fed-up? (7)

Down

1. His victims lose heart (5)
 2. Person who discredits an old woman (3)
 3. One type has four heels, another none at all (4)
 4. It's for the rest of the cast (5,4)
 5. His fare is too much (7)
 8. Fit a support with hesitation (6)
 11. I'll get him prepared for publicity's glare (9)
 13. Capital form of punishment (6)
 14. They're trodden underfoot (7)
 16. One I form out of uniformity (5)
 18. It's flat and square (4)
 20. He gets red if a stranger addresses him! (3)



Quick Clues:

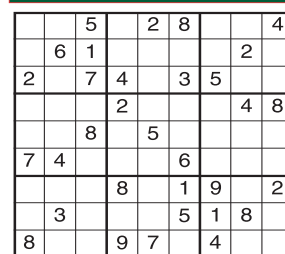
Across

6. Advance (7)
 7. Body of troops (5)
 9. Employ (3)
 10. Cancellation (9)
 12. Theory (11)
 15. Introductory (11)
 17. Perilous (9)
 19. Fresh (3)
 21. Set free (5)
 22. Shake (7)

Down

1. Attire (5)
 2. Perform (3)
 3. Average (4)
 4. Sleeping room (9)
 5. Belief (7)
 8. Morose (6)
 11. Express regret (9)
 13. Photographic device (6)
 14. Maker (7)
 16. Trifling (5)
 18. Incite (4)
 20. Pig-pen (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	3	5	9	8	2	7	4	6
8	7	2	3	4	6	1	9	5
4	9	6	7	1	3	8	5	2
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7	1	3	2	6	9	5	8	4
5	8	9	4	7	8	2	3	1
2	8	4	3	5	1	9	6	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Get one's hand in; 8 Admirers; 9 Well; 10 Absent; 12 Stress; 14 Seance; 16 Titian; 18 Peru; 20 Absconds; 22 Archaeologist. Down: 1 Readable; 2 Iodine; 3 Code; 4 Chess set; 5 Answer; 6 Till; 11 Teenager; 13 Slap-dash; 15 Nought; 17 Trough; 19 Earl; 21 Sole. QUICK - Across: 7 Overstatement; 8 Pretence; 9 Ease; 10 Siesta; 12 Greedy; 14 Infant; 16 Humble; 18 Plot; 20 Navigate; 22 Contemplation. Down: 1 Aversion; 2 Gratis; 3 Stun; 4 Strength; 5 Impede; 6 Onus; 11 Autonomy; 13 Dilation; 15 Astute; 17 Mighty; 19 Loot; 21 Vile.

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Saturday Night from £129.⁹⁵

Dine and Dance from £139.⁹⁵

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

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Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £189.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend from £189.⁹⁵

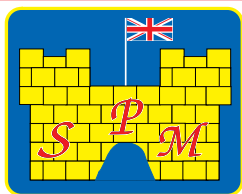
These popular theatre packages to the West End depart from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package or choose your price band for the Saturday evening performance with the Theatre Weekend package.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

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TIVIDALE NEW FAIRWAY AVENUE £550 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking Space	GREAT BRIDGE NEW EAGLE PLACE £370 pcm Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Economy Seven Heating, Private Parking, Security Entrance Door	WOODSETTON NEW SEDGLEY ROAD £595 pcm Mid Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom with shower, Three Large Bedrooms, First Floor WC, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking at rear	TIPTON TIPPS STONE CLOSE £410 pcm First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished
BROCKMOOR STATION ROAD £495 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking	BRIERLEY HILL DADFORD VIEW £460 pcm Cluster Style Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Allocated Parking, Front & Side Garden, Available Early March	NETHERTON PARK ROAD £360 pcm First floor flat, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking, Available End March	GORNAL CENTRAL DRIVE £550 pcm Terrace Property, Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished
DUDLEY MARMION GROVE £525 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished	KINVER DUNSLEY ROAD £695 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking	DUDLEY STOURBRIDGE ROAD £525 pcm Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking	COSELEY SALCOMBE GROVE £545 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens
DUDLEY TIPTON ROAD £545 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking	WILLENHALL YALE ROAD £725 pcm Link Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Single Garage	KINGSWINFORD QUEEN STREET £450 pcm Large First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Bathroom with Walk in Cupboard, Double Glazing, FULLY FURNISHED, Maintained Gardens, No DSS	PENSNETT AVON CLOSE £575 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens
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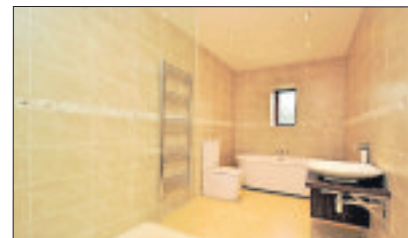
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The bathroom - the property is well-presented throughout

Semi-rural location for barn conversion

A FOUR BEDROOM barn conversion in a semi-rural location is on the market based on offers around £385,000.

The property - 3, Wood Farm Barns, Gospel End Road - is within easy reach of Baggeridge Country Park, Sedgley Golf Club and Penn Common.

There is oak flooring, open-tread staircase, hardwood double glazing, gas central heating and underfloor heating throughout the ground floor.

Double doors access the dining hall. There is a boiler cupboard and double doors to the rear and guest cloakroom.

Off the hall is a spacious sitting room and a fitted breakfast kitchen has cream fronted units with contrasting drawers.

Integrated appliances include twin Bosch electric ovens, gas hob, fridge, freezer and dishwasher.

A winding oak staircase leads to a large landing with study area and large arch top windows. A master bedroom suite has en suite shower room, further double bedroom and luxury family bathroom. On the second floor are two more double bedrooms and a shower room.

A half-mile shared road leads to a block-paved drive and lawn area. A rear garden has a block paved patio and lawn.

Planning permission is being sought to convert stables to for double garaging. Call Berriman Eaton on 01902 747744.



The property, in Gospel End Road, is in easy reach of Sedgley Golf Club

An exclusive cul-de-sac for this detached home



Taylor's is selling this four-bedroom detached home in Oakham, Dudley, based on offers around £244,950

A FOUR-BEDROOM executive style house in an exclusive cul-de-sac is on the market based on offers around £244,950.

The property in Hillman Drive, Oakham, Dudley, is for sale with no upward chain with accommodation briefly comprising of entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen with integrated appliances, guest cloaks, conservatory, four bedrooms - the master en suite - and family bathroom.

On the ground floor the guest WC has a sink in vanity unit and toilet while the living room - 16ft by 13ft 4in - has a living flame gas fire in a feature fireplace and the dining room measuring 13ft 9in by 9ft 10in has patio doors to a conservatory which is 10ft 9in by 10ft.

The refitted kitchen, 10ft 8in by 10ft 4in, has a range of

base and eye level units with marble work surfaces, one and a half bowl sink drainer with mixer tap, Rangemaster five ring gas hob oven (available by separate negotiation), integrated dishwasher and refrigerator and door to garage.

On the first floor bedroom one has an en-suite with shower cubicle and there are three further bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite of panelled bath with shower over, WC and pedestal wash hand basin.

Outside the property stands behind a tarmacadam driveway with parking for six or more vehicles and leading to a garage, while the rear garden is landscaped and mainly laid to lawn with well stocked borders of trees, shrubs and plants, paved patio area, brick built barbecue, water feature and two garden sheds.

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Freshfields, Whitehill Road, Kidderminster

An exceptionally well situated individual detached bungalow offering excellent family accommodation at this much sought after address, set in very private plot in around one acre with stunning views and option to purchase adjoining three acre paddock if required. Magnificent Far Reaching Views Across Countryside, Three Bedrooms and Three Bathrooms, Splendid Lounge 22' x 16', Separate Dining Room, Study, Kitchen / Breakfast Room, Utility Room, Detached Double Garage Converted to Office. Energy Rating D.

PRICE: £695,000



The Old School House, Cutnall Green, Droitwich

Large individual modern detached house with gardens and paddocks extending to approx 4.5 acres. Reception Hall, Superb Lounge 19' x 14' with open fireplace, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Sun Lounge, Farmhouse style Breakfast Kitchen, Guest Cloakroom & Utility Room, 4 double Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, Double Garage, Detached Games Room/Office Annex with own Garage, Gardens backing onto Farmland, 2 separate Paddocks adjoining. Energy Rating D.

PRICE: £649,950



Cornerways, Drayton Road, Chaddesley Corbett

Greatly extended and improved individual 4/5 bedroom detached dormer bungalow in prime location on the outskirts of this sought after village. 4 Double Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, Excellent 18' x 15' Lounge, Dining Room / Bedroom 5, Breakfast Kitchen, Full range of integrated appliances, Detached Double Garage, Large Corner Plot. Energy Rating C.

PRICE: £510,000



Rhonalea, Mustow Green, Kidderminster

Newly refurbished and much extended individual detached house in prime location, offering splendid 5 bedroom accommodation. Excellent Breakfast Kitchen 20' x 15', Full range of integrated appliances, Splendid Lounge 19'4" x 11'10", Dining Room with bay window to front, Guest Cloakroom, Five Double Bedrooms (two en-suite), Family Bathroom, Integral Garage/Store, Delightful South facing Garden to rear.

PRICE: £510,000



Dordale Barn, Belbroughton

The most delightful detached barn conversion in idyllic rural surroundings set in around 0.7 acres, bordered by stream. Splendid exposed timbers throughout. Attractive landscaped Gardens, Picturesque location just outside village. Excellent 22' Breakfast Kitchen, Comprehensive range of integral appliances, Lounge with French windows out to Garden, 2 Double Bedrooms, Bathroom & separate Wet Room. Energy Rating D.

PRICE: £475,000



Fulwood, Callow Hill, Rock, Kidderminster

Spacious 4 bedroom detached house in rural location, currently divided to form self-contained 2 storey annexe. Simple to revert to a larger single property. Total accommodation circa 2,000 sq.ft. House has large open-plan Kitchen/Family Room, Separate Lounge 16' x 11', 3 Bedrooms & Large Bathroom, Annex has 21' open-plan Lounge/Kitchen, Ground floor Bathroom, First floor Double Bedroom & En-suite. Energy rating C.

PRICE: £375,000



Severn Valley Guest House, Bewdley

Wonderfully spacious historic Grade II listed Georgian property providing an excellent opportunity in this delightful riverside tourist town. 8 Bedrooms, 8 Shower/Bathrooms, Resident's Dining Room, 2 Private Sitting Rooms & Kitchen, Vaulted Cellar Games Room & Store, Versatile 3 storey accommodation with character. Close to river and town centre.

PRICE: £360,000



Arcadia, School Lane, Kinlet nr Bewdley

An unusually spacious individual detached family house set within approximately one third of an acre, enjoying a popular village location. Reception Hall and Cloakroom, 22ft Lounge and Separate Dining Room, Breakfast Room and Fitted Kitchen, Five Bedrooms, Bathroom, Integral Garage, Oil Fired Central Heating, Double Glazing, Energy Rating D.

PRICE: £314,999



The Lodge, Stone Manor Hotel, Kidderminster

Unique opportunity to acquire this most attractive lodge house within the grounds of the renowned Stone Manor Hotel. Excellent Potential for Alterations and Improvement, Generous Gardens to Rear, Currently Adapted for Staff Living Accommodation, Lots of Character, Prime Location, For Sale by Informal Tender, Best and Final Written Offers to be Submitted by 12 o'clock noon Friday 3rd May.

Guide Price : £250,000 - £300,000



Sandy Bank, Bewdley

A charming detached period cottage within walking distance of the town centre with the benefit of garage and parking. Dining Room / Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom & Cloakroom, Gas Fired Central Heating, Energy Rating F.

PRICE: £215,000



Forest View, Fallowfield, Dowles Road, Bewdley

Absolutely stunning timber lodge providing superbly appointed accommodation in a freehold plot of just under half an acre adjoining the Wyre Forest. Magnificent Lounge 21' x 12', Dining Room Overlooking the Forest, Excellent 18' Kitchen Full Range of Fitted Appliances, All Bedrooms have excellent range of Fitted Furniture, Master Bedroom with Superb En-suite Bathroom, Second Bedroom with En-suite Shower Room, Third Bedroom/Study, Simply Must Be Seen.

PRICE: £225,000



Staita Drive, Cookley

An exceptionally well situated and well maintained detached bungalow overlooking picturesque countryside to rear. Reception Hall, Cloaks Cupboard, Lounge / Dining Room, Comprehensively fitted Kitchen, 2 Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage and Driveway Parking, Mature Gardens to front and rear, Central Heating and Double Glazing. Energy Rating D.

PRICE: £187,950



Church View Gardens, Kinver

Extended and improved 3 bedroom semi-detached dormer bungalow in popular village location. Lounge with French windows to garden, White fitted Kitchen, Ground floor Bathroom, 2 ground floor Bedrooms, 17ft Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Lengthy driveway and detached Garage, No Upwards Chain. Energy Rating D.

PRICE: £179,950



Westhead Road North, Cookley

Attractive bay fronted semi-detached house with scope for a little cosmetic updating situated in much sought after village address. Sunny, south facing rear garden, Three good Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom, Lounge with log burner, Separate Dining Room, Breakfast Room, Kitchen, GCH, upPVC DG, All serious offers invited. Energy Rating D.

PRICE: £169,950



Sandalwood, Comberton Road, Kidderminster

Spacious and superbly appointed ground floor apartment forming part of an exclusive gated development providing warden assisted living for the over 55s. Open Plan Lounge and Dining Room, Luxury Fitted Kitchen, Comprehensive range of Bosch Appliances, Two Bedrooms each with En-suite Shower Room, French Windows leading out to Communal Garden, Communal Lounge and other facilities. Excellent Central Location.

PRICE: £139,950



Woodbury Road, Stourport

Well proportioned traditional detached bungalow in need of updating and improvement. Reception Hall, Spacious Kitchen, Lounge with sliding patio door to rear, 2 Double Bedrooms, Bathroom & separate WC, Level lawned Gardens to rear. Best and final written offers should be submitted to Kidderminster office 12.00 noon Friday, 19th April 2013

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NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when
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are not purchasing from a
Puppy Farmer.
1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with its
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.
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43YR old female, bubbly, down to earth, trustworthy, honest, caring, seeks male, 45 plus.



To view these members and others go to: <http://dating.expressandstar.com>
HELEN & RICKY

Are this weeks featured web ads



RICKY 39, honest, caring, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks lady, 35-40 for good times in and out.

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125. Or call 0906 635 0510.

(T&C's below)

SINGLE LADIES

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

AMY 19yr old single female looking for much older naughty male for discreet fun times only. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403381 ☞

SHARON medium built lovely, 33yrs, pale complexion, nice eyes, feminine, outgoing, confident, enjoys varied interests. WLTm all round nice guy for adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403345 ☞

CAROL South African lonely heart 37yrs, looking for fun with mature gent 50plus, likes dining in/out, discretion assured/appreciated. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403337 ☞

WIDOW seeking similar aged male to share holidays and weekends out. Car owner preferred. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389795

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883 ☞

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361076 ☞

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 359238 ☞

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852

ABBY is a passionate sexy girl seeking some fun times. Tel: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 373603

SUSAN 49, fun loving, 5ft 2ins, brown hair/eyes, many interests, needs heart mending. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 204862

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325 ☞

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368429 ☞

CAROL, discreet, married, 47yrs seeks man for fun times. Tel: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 400499

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651 ☞

TINA fun loving single mum who enjoys most things in life, seeking happy guy with GSOH for meals in, dates out, possible romance and adult companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403567 ☞

SLIM fit, bubbly female can't wait to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367066 ☞

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852

43YR old female, bubbly, down to earth, trustworthy, honest, caring, seeks male, 45 plus. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402945 ☞

IRENE 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106 ☞

BERNIE Beautiful black lady with no ties seeks her King, curvy, intelligent, feminine and all you will ever need, what are you waiting for? Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402991 ☞

ALISON 37 animal loving female who enjoys a quiet life, cooking, seeks older respectful male 42-60yrs to enjoy meals out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402793 ☞

HI I am Sara 21, a petite single mum, sporty, caring and looking for reliable, well groomed male 30-40yrs for adult 1-2-1. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402771 ☞

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501

DANWYN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTm tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375825

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313115

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407 ☞

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTm male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388297

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295

BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368528 ☞

PICK AN ADVERT AND MAKE A DATE TODAY!

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923 ☞

LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949

CLARE 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTm caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047

JEANETTE 35, blonde blue eyed attractive active nurse who really cares about people, WLTm someone genuine and honest to fall in love with. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402655 ☞

LISA 30's tall slim beauty looking for dining partner to romance, pamper and appreciate me in return for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402645 ☞

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041



SUE 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818 ☞

SHAPELY attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 231152

SLIM curvy blonde, 44, professional, seeks tall, professional male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 171231

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, average looks, likes reading, meals out, cinema, theatre, quiet pubs, honest, genuine, kind, caring, GSOH, seeks male, 42-58. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391308

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317 ☞

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432 ☞

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428 ☞

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207 ☞

MADELINE 5ft black, seeks male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375789

5FT 1ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks male, 40-50, honest, caring, trustworthy, down to earth and bubbly. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388741

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392319 ☞

33YR old black haired, medium built, 5ft 3ins female seeking soul mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389799

NATALIE 30, attractive, size 12, black, seeking male for romantic fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387753 ☞

NICKY looking for attractive male 48-55yrs for fun, good times and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388393

FUN loving lady, 56, outgoing, honest, caring, seeks caring male, 55-60 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391192

GENUINE female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327 ☞

YVONNE looking for Christian male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391135 ☞

FEMALE looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169 ☞

BLACK attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Holby. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367021 ☞

SINGLE MEN

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Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125. (T&C's below).

MIKE 45, bored, seeks female, any age for adult fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403461 ☞

MALE 47, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, slim-medium build, likes nights out, GSOH, seeks special female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 302861

45YR old British Asian male, 5ft 9ins, slim-medium build, kind, caring, GSOH, likes romantic meals, nights in, films, music, walks, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403631 ☞

GARY kind, caring, seeks special lady, any age for fun times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403585 ☞

PAUL 60, medium build, fit, virile with strong needs, WLTm West Midland lady for regular mutual pleasure. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374821

PATRICK 60's, single, likes sports, music, reading, seeks lady friend to share evenings/weekend meetings together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396053

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157 ☞

TALL dark, attractive guy, 49, seeks attractive, younger female for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 316752

MALE 60, strong needs, seeks similar lady for regular evening/weekend meetings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384219

DARREN young looking 37, likes pubs, clubs, cinema, meals out, cosy nights in, seeks female 18-37. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392049 ☞

CARL 40, likes DVDs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393766 ☞

HARDWORKING 41yr old male, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403131 ☞

KARL 40, fun loving, caring, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389662

GENUINE good looking male, 38, seeking genuine female, 25-45 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392233

JOHN 59, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, seeks lady, 46-55, likes meals out and in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403273 ☞

SINGLE male, 60, WLTm local lady with strong physical needs for regular contact with no commitment initially. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377459

ATTRACTIVE male, late 40's, seeks attractive female for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311713

BRIAN 60's, ordinary man, strong needs, seeks affectionate lady for close friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396765

ATTRACTIVE male, 55, seeks older female, 50-70 for close, adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397189

60'S male, medium build, fit, high drive, seeks West Midlands lady who needs occasional male evening/weekend company. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 381307

MICHAEL 50, nice eyes, seeking female companion for holidays and weekends away, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401479 ☞

STEVE 63, tall, fit, young outgoing, likes travel, socialising, holidays, N/S, seeks local lady, 55-60 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402931

MALE 5ft 8ins, athletic, GSOH, seeks older lady for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402357

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368871 ☞

SHROPSHIRE male, 53, tall, dark, attractive, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement, any age/status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367373

ROY 62, tall, fit, loyal, N/S, looking for that special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397637 ☞

ROMANTIC white male, 47, 5ft 11ins, seeks lady, likes meals out, holidays, cinema and keep fit. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402243

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875 ☞

STEVE 60, likes sports, meals out, seeks female with view to permanent relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401695

MALE 50, genuine, honest, many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394232

41YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, likes cosy nights in and good times out, seeks female to share good times with, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 369663 ☞

STEVE 60, likes sports, meals out, seeks similar female for permanent relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401441

RICHARD 49, dark hair, brown eyes, olive skin, WLTm lady, 40-50 for LTR, size unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401431 ☞

TALL mature, solvent male, seeks to wine and dine younger lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401241

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VINCE 52, caring, seeking female for fun and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401683 ☞

TALL dark, good looking male, 53, seeks attractive female for daytime fun and exciting times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393380 ☞

STEVE 54, attractive, seeks older lady, 55-75 for mutual adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399755

DAVID 40, genuine, down to earth, seeking someone for nights out and great times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398889 ☞

OPEN-MINDED blue eyed, dark haired loving male, seeks genuine, fun loving female for nights in/out and weekends away. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402313

GAY SINGLES

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www.localgaydate.co.uk

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892 ☞



Women TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. Texts cost £1.50 per message Help Desk: 0844 445 7707

GUYS TEXT FOR FUN. SEND INDP followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to 66888 (T&C's below)

SUE, sporty and fun , why not chat with me. Text INDP 205455 to 66888

NATALIE, foreign beauty hopes a nice working man will send her a text. She is home alone. Text INDP 204600 to 66888

SENSITVIE, romantic lady seeks a compassionate man to swap texts with. I have a good ear and happy to listen. Text INDP 205422 to 66888

LINDSEY, available to chat, send her a text. She promises to text everyone back. Text INDP 205034 to 66888

SALLY, student, 20yrs, needs an escape from the boredom. Text INDP 204750 to 66888

NURSE, mid 20's, blonde and curvy is bored. Text her! Text INDP 204698 to 66888

GLAM Gran, mid 50's, home babysitting and would love to chat to you. Text INDP 205100 to 66888

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

No time for a siesta in this Fiesta

By Ian Donaldson

PICTURE the scene; ahead of you is a ribbon of road stretching to the far horizon with tempting corners and nobody else about. Do you take the 'dream' Lamborghini or Ford's new zesty Fiesta?



Ford's new Fiesta ST which is certain to go down a storm with UK buyers

The Lambo, of course. Or perhaps not. The road is rather narrow and there are enough nasty surfaces (the odd pothole too) to make the Italian rocket feel big and a bit fragile.

So you don your sensible hat and jump into the Fiesta ST, latest in a line of entertaining small Fords that started with the XR2 in 1981 and soon became the nation's favourite hot hatch.

Nothing much is likely to change 32 years later, with the UK set to take 5,000 ST Fiestas annually, around half of European sales overall. Yes, we still love a quick, affordable

Ford.

And affordable the new baby with attitude really is.

There are two versions, the plainly titled ST at £16,795 and the better equipped ST2 at £17,795, both of them clearly undercutting obvious rivals from the likes of Renault and (soon) Peugeot.

Powering the ST is a potent 182-horsepower, 1.6-litre turbo petrol engine that promises decent economy when you're not enjoying that sinuous snake of Tarmac mentioned above.

But what marks the newcomer out isn't its outright performance, but the compelling way it refuses to turn into a springless skateboard when the road turns from billiard table smooth to B-road brittle.

Engineering

It's a genuine engineering achievement to produce a car that's so much fun, practically wherever you happen to be.

The Lamborghini, on the other hand, will turn all pouty at the first sign of a speedbump, never mind a width restrictor or the crawl to work in the morning. On paper, there's nothing magic about the ST.

It could be one of many small hatches designed to add a dash of spice to everyday driving. What sets the car apart (and Ford has form in this department) is the obvious attention to the smallest detail that other car makers give up on sooner.

You can't tell by looking, you have to take a Fiesta ST for a longish drive, where the supple but sporty suspension, perfectly weighted



The Fiesta ST interior may look old hat but is packed with good quality fittings

steering and brakes that practically start a conversation with your right foot will have you wanting more.

What you can tell by looking is that the ST stands out from its softer siblings, thanks to a bold honeycomb radiator grille, large rear spoiler and twin exhausts.

There are big alloy wheels, tinted glass and a slightly lower stance too. Inside, you'll find grippy front seats in cloth as the main marker that here is a car designed to corner quickly.

A heated windscreen (which is just magic on those frosty mornings) and a DAB radio are

standard too. Pay your extra £1,000 for an ST2 and you add heated and part leather seats, a better sound system, darkened glass for rear seat passengers and a button to start the engine, with the key left in your pocket.

Both versions share a dashboard that was clearly inspired by mobile phones but looks a bit old hat and cluttered, but there's no denying the quality of everything you can see and touch. And you certainly won't be trying to tune the radio when you're having so much fun producing a different sort of music from beneath the bonnet.

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Clovelly and North Devon Delights

Four days departing July 12 and 19

Pick of the week



PRICE FROM £219

THE north Devon landscape is a delightful mix of picturesque villages, remote moorland and spectacular coastline that borders the mighty Atlantic Ocean.

During this short break you will be able to enjoy the stunning scenery and visit some of the most beautiful areas including the privately owned village of Clovelly.

Entrance is included to Clovelly where, using traditional materials and craftsmanship, the village is kept in the style of the mid 19th century making you feel like you have stepped back in time.

There is so much to see and explore here, maybe pay a visit to the excellent pottery and silk workshops or just sit back and absorb Clovelly's unique atmosphere from the tiny, beautifully restored 13th century quay.

You will be taken on a full day excursion along the North Devon coast visiting Lynton and Lynmouth. These two villages are nestled in wooded river valleys and linked together by a 120 year old cliff railway. Each village boasts a wealth of quaint curio, pottery and souvenir shops, a local history museum, plus an abundance of cafes and hotels if you fancy treating yourself to a Devon clotted cream tea.

Visits are also made to Appledore where the narrow streets lead to a long tree lined quay and Barnstaple, capital of North Devon and one of the oldest towns in Britain.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Clovelly
- Visits to Appledore, Lynton, Lynmouth and Barnstaple
- Optional excursion to RHS Rosemoor Garden
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Coronation Festival at Buckingham Palace

Two days departing July 13



PRICE FROM £149.95

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Admission to the Coronation Festival in Buckingham Palace Gardens (entry to Palace not included)
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

A three-day rail break is also offered for this trip
Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Chatsworth House and the Peak District

Two days departing July 28



PRICE FROM £89.95

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Chatsworth House and Gardens
- Tour of the Peak District
- Evening entertainment
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Royal Ascot on Ladies Day

Day trip departing June 20



PRICE FROM £89.95

- Return coach travel
- Brunch-time full English breakfast with a glass of sparkling wine
- Admission to the Silver Ring enclosure (upgrade offered)
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Chelsea Flower Show

Two days departing May 24



PRICE FROM £169.95

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Admission to the Chelsea Flower Show
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Settle Carlisle Railway and Pennine Waterways

Four days departing June 21, September 13



PRICE FROM £249

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Journey on the Settle-Carlisle Railway
- Cruise on the Leeds Liverpool Canal
- Visits to Ingleton, Skipton and Haworth
- Services of a tour driver and tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

The Isle of Wight and Osborne House

Three days departing May 10 and Sept 27



PRICE FROM £169

- Return coach travel and ferry crossings
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Osborne House and Queen Victoria's private beach
- Visits to Yarmouth, Alum Bay, Godshell, Newport and Ryde
- Optional excursion to Carisbrooke Castle
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Two Thames Cruises

Two days departing
May 18, June 22, August 17, September 21



PRICE FROM £129.95

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Two cruises on the River Thames
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

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- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Please note the "from" price and price bands vary for each show
Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Krakow

Four days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £389

- Return flights
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided sightseeing tour of Krakow
- Visit to the castle district
- Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Disneyland® Paris

Three days, various departure dates



PRICE FROM £169*

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- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation
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- Services of a representative

*Child prices from £119 (conditions apply)

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

Lake Garda, Venice and Verona

Eight days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £599

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Tour of Lake Garda
- Guided tours of Verona and Venice
- Tour of the Dolomite mountains
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)



Thrust for promotion is helped by victory

STOURBRIDGE Chess Club first team continued their promotion push in Birmingham League Division Two with victory against Sutton Coldfield.

The opposition accepted Stourbridge's offer on the three adjourned games of a win for Dave Scriven and draws for Greg Dyett and Paul Sharratt. It gave Stourbridge the match 4-2.

Players are gearing up for the Terrill Trophy final on April 11 against Division One champions South Birmingham A.

Stourbridge get a handicap start of 2.5 points and need a further two points over six boards.

Stourbridge second team drew at Kidderminster in Wolverhampton League Division Two, with Julie Wilson the only winner. They now look odds-on for relegation.

They played Shirley and Wythall in Division Three of the Birmingham League and lost 4.5-1.5 with Eric Horwill, John Foxall and Colin Woodall drawing and the rest of the team losing.

Anyone interested in playing for Stourbridge or who would just like to improve their game, should call Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 or visit www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk for more information.

Impressive form stops the Eagles

Stourbridge FC Juniors U11 1 Kewford Eagles U11 East 0

STOURBRIDGE kept their impressive form going with a good victory against high-flying Kewford Eagles East.

Their defence was in fine form, holding Kewford at bay.

At the back, Tommy McCarthy, Jake Melvin, Callum Boughton and man of the match Donovan Westwood all impressed while goalkeeper, Tyler Beach made two fine saves.

Stourbridge created many chances, only to be denied repeatedly by the Kewford keeper.

They found the net only once – but it was enough. Jordan Edwards scored his 33rd goal of the season, using his strength to hold off the Kewford defence before slotting the ball past the Kewford keeper.

Sports Bar A are tested by third string

BRIERLEY HILL Sports Bar A took another step closer to clinching the Premier Division title with an 'in-house' success.

They were given a serious examination by their C team but emerged with a 3-2 win to open an eight-point gap at the top of the table with three games to play.

Lee Whitehouse and Andy Watts won for the C team but Russ Edwards, Luke Garland and Callum Downing, in the decider, saw the champions-elect home.

Norton Social won 4-1 away to Stourbridge Institute A to maintain their challenge.

But they need Brierley Hill to

drop points in their next two games if they are to be in with a chance of the title.

Kinver Const A lost the first two frames to Hotshots' Dave Green and Roy Stokes, with a 48 break, but hit back through Darren Oakes, Chris Jones, with a 51, and Andrew Highfield to win 3-2.

Kingswinford RBL A increased their lead at the top of the First Division to four points with a 4-1 win against Kingswinford SC. Anthony Davies, Gregg Reece, Steve Small and Andrew Brown all won.

Netherton Sports & Social are still in with a shout of title glory

Snooker

following a 3-2 win over Wombourne. Steve Howell, Andy Barnett and Carl Webb were on target.

Third-placed Amblecote RBL are only three points adrift after a 3-2 at Kingswinford Cons A.

The chase for the Second Division title has intensified after the top two teams suffered 4-1 defeats. Leaders Baggeridge Social lost at Stourbridge Inst C, who are now only two points behind.

Second-placed Kinver Const D went down to Amblecote Inst D.

Premier Division: Kinver Const A 3 (C Jones 51, D Oakes, A Highfield) **Hotshots SC 2** (R Stokes 48, D Green); **Pockets SC A 3** (A Smith 36, J Bolton 48, R Pepperall) **West Mid Police 2** (G Sloan 49, P Gibbons); **Snooks SC B 4** (C Price, S Nicholls, P Vyze, J Jenna); **Pockets SC B 1** (D Rees 65); **B Hill Sports C 2** (L Whitehouse, A Watts); **B Hill Sports A 3** (R Edwards, L Garland, C Downing); **B Hill Sports B 4** (W Knight, A Kensett, P Dunkey 37, M Richards); **Snooks SC A 1** (J Cresswell); **Stourbridge Inst A 1** (P Garbett) **Norton Social A 4** (A Aston 42, A Ness, N Rollinson, S Mason).

First Division: Kingswinford Cons A 2 (B Arnold, W Whitmore) **Amblecote RBL 3** (B Young, M Jeffries, G Jevons); **Kingswinford RBL A 4** (A Davies, G Reece 24, S Small, A Brown 24); **Kingswinford SC 1** (P Ross); **Netherton Sports & Soc 3** (S Howell, A Barnett, C Webb); **Wombourne 2** (J Woodridge, R Mason); **Norton Social B 2** (S Parkes, J Cartwright); **B Hill Sports D 3** (P Jones, T Brennan, S Norton); **Stourbridge Inst B 2** (D Banks, R Tromans) **Amblecote Inst B 3** (M

Cook, A Coley, M Johnson); **Kinver Const C 2** (S Jones, T Charnock); **Kinver Const B 3** (A Tromans, R Smith, R Hall).

Second Division: Stourbridge Inst C 4 (N Aston, H Jones, T Pardoe, S Tyler) **Baggeridge Social 1** (L Whale); **Amblecote Inst D 4** (M Robson, A Jeffries, M Daniels, C Butcher); **Kinver Const D 1** (Eco Jones); **Kingswinford RBL B 1** (L Grosvenor 28) **Amblecote Inst C 4** (G Lyons, R Vans, M Colbourne, Colin Homer).

■ Stourbridge B failed to overturn a 55-point deficit at Kidderminster's St Johns club in the second leg of the Worcester Inter-League competition.

Stourbridge reached the final of the West Midlands Inter-Town competition with a 4-3 victory over Sedgley & Gornal. Gavin Sloan clinched victory in the sixth frame.

Win aids Robins in drive for top six

Dudley Town 2 Pegasus Juniors 0

DUDLEY TOWN made big inroads in their quest for a top six West Midlands Premier finish.

Pegasus could only name one substitute but Dudley were short as well with Richard Langford, Dreniz Bal, Geoff Hill and Alex Cowley unavailable. Steve Edmunds was suspended.

Forward Dominik Watson had a first start partnering Alex Perry up front. Captain Danny Ludlow was left back.

Perry and Pegasus hot-shot Cory Hyde caused difficulties for the home defence on a very heavy pitch.

On 20 minutes visiting keeper Bryn Watkins saved from ex-Gornal forward Watson. Seconds later Dudley's Ross Love cleared-off the line after Aaron O'Malley had been rounded.

Dudley should have gone into the break leading as Love and defensive partner Rob Whitley went close.

Juniors had no answer to Dudley and O'Malley didn't have to make a save once Town went ahead.

On 56 minutes neat build-up play from Niki Faux played in Tom Gadd, whose powerful drive beat Watkins, despite the keeper getting his hands to the ball and watching as the rebound looped over his head and into the back of the net.

From then on the hosts bossed the game and should really extended their lead further with Dan Cresswell and substitute Grant Joshua both close with efforts from outside the area.

They did find a second on 72 minutes when Watson broke free on the right wing and drilled a low shot past Watkins as The Robins extended their unbeaten run to three games

Runners' park Stumble date

STOURBRIDGE Running Club's annual 10km Stourbridge Stumble is on Saturday, August 10 at 6pm at Mary Stevens Park.

A 3.5km fun run around is at 5pm. For information and entry form links visit www.srclub.co.uk or call 01384 823857.

The club, welcoming runners of all abilities and with groups for all paces, meet Mondays and Wednesdays at 6.45pm at Stourbridge Cricket Club, Stourbridge War memorial ground.

Saxons bouncing back in style after reversal

Stourbridge Saxons 39 Sheffield Tigers 0
THE SAXONS bounced back in style to remove any lingering self-doubt from last week's reversal at Darlington Mowden Park.

Sheffield contributed fully to a highly entertaining National Two North game, but were ultimately outgunned rather than outclassed.

In November they were the first opponents to take a point from a game against the Saxons. On this occasion they were firmly shut out by a solid defensive performance in which flanker Eijke Zuizigwe was outstanding.

Scrum-half Pete White ran an early penalty conceded in Tigers' 22, attacking phases drawing a further penalty that Jamie Hearn slotted for an early 3-0 lead.

A chip by scrum-half Pete White established a platform for multiple phases of attack before outside half Sione Tu'ipolotu ploughed through and over.

Hearn slotted the extras but Saxons spent 20 minutes unable to convert dominance into points.

Tu'ipolotu added a second from a short-range drive but Hearn failed to convert to leave a 17-0 interval score.

After the restart Tu'ipolotu put in a crossfield chip after a break by centre Will Hurrell. Winger Nathan Bressington collected in space to score.

A worked move saw Hurrell through but he was called back for encroaching before the lineout ended.

Flanker James Rodley and second row Rich Stott came on, Stott seeing a chance for a quick throw-in.

He fed Rodley who scorched through on the

Stourbridge Saxons

hour mark. Seven minutes later he was on the shoulder of centre Gary Dipple to take a scoring pass after a line break near half way. Fellow sub Caolan Ryan converted.

Will Hurrell recovered a loose pass and, the ball went to Bressington for a 2nd try.

Coach Mike Umaga said: "It's always pleasing to 'nil' opponents, and though our first half performance denied us the opportunity to win big, the intensity and precision of our 2nd half was outstanding.

"'Edgie' led the way giving us the extra inch in both attack and defence, and our lineout also delivered the goods today with Stewart Pearl on form and Robbie Hurrell returning from injury. We've 4 big games to come, the next one possibly the biggest of the lot up at Hull Ionians who will be only too aware that they have to beat us to remain in contention".

There's plenty of pride from the defeated Lions



Stuart Doolittle secures line-out ball in the Lions' 36-8 loss to visiting Selby



James Meakin drives forward for Lions



Stourbridge centre Harry Wainwright is held up. Pictures: Ceri Davies



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Opening round is rescued for Matt

STOURBRIDGE racer Matt Neal rescued his opening round of the British Touring Car championship with victory in race three on the Brands Hatch Indy circuit.

Jason Plato leads standings after two wins from the opening three races.

Neal led home Honda Yuasa Racing team-mate Gordon Shedden in the final race to ensure the champion squad ended a challenging weekend on a high.

Fellow Honda Civic driver Andrew Jordan is second in the standings after a pole position, two second places and a sixth.

Plato won the opening race of the year in a pulsating battle with Jordan.

Race two saw Plato take a lights-to-flag win – the 76th win of a record-breaking BTCC career – with Jordan second, ahead of reigning champion Shedden's Honda.

The Scotsman was later excluded, after his car failed ride height regulations in post-race scrutineering, handing Jeff Smith a podium for Pirtek Racing.

Triple-champion Neal took his first win of the new campaign, leading home team-mate Shedden by 0.083sec. He led early on after pole-sitter Mat Jackson slid wide at Druids.

Double-champion Plato holds a nine-point lead in the standings over Jordan.

No pressure for trophies says chief

HEATHENS chief Nigel Pearson says there is no pressure on riders or manager to win silverware.

He is keen to play down expectations before Tuesday's opener at their temporary Wolverhampton home as they face Coventry in the Travel Plus Trophy.

Before then they go to Mildenhall on Sunday in the first leg of the National Shield – a trophy they hope to win for a third successive season.

The chairman said: "The only expectation I have of the team and Will Pottinger, our manager, is to see them giving their best at all times and learn, improve and become better at their job."

"I'm not saying we should win the league and cup; as long as Heathens play a part in the development of some riders from a very young age, then that's fine."

Early strikes help to see off Saints' challenge

Stourbridge 2 St Albans City 1

AN EARLY goal in each half paved the way for the Glassboys to see off fellow promotion chasers St Albans City.

After three minutes, visiting defender Joe Bruce was adjudged to have fouled Luke Benbow right on the edge of the penalty box.

Leon Broadhurst ran over the ball before Ben Billingham curled a low left-footer around the wall to put Stourbridge ahead.

Two minutes later a fine save from Dean Coleman prevented Saints drawing level.

The home keeper was in action again on 24 minutes as Ngoyi hit a low shot that forced a sharp diving save away to his right.

Stourbridge FC

Three minutes later, a goal-kick from Coleman was headed on by Billingham and Benbow hit a shot that Nick Jupp did well to push away. Soon afterwards, Nathan Bennett met a corner with a header which fell to Ben Mackey; his shot was smothered by Jupp.

On 31 minutes a deep right-wing flag-kick from Sean Geddes was met by Bennett, but his header was palmed away.

Two minutes into the second period Stourbridge doubled their advantage after

the visitors conceded possession from a free-kick. Mackey clipped a pass through and Benbow beat Ryan Wharton to the ball before checking on to his right and curling a shot beyond Jupp and into the far top corner for his 20th goal of the campaign.

In the 51st minute, Geddes hit a 20-yard free-kick straight at Jupp and on 56 minutes Graham combined with Godfrey to line up Ngoyi but he scuffed his shot.

At the other end, Benbow headed on for Billingham to find Geddes who shot wide of the far post. With five minutes to go, a long free-kick from Coleman was taken well by Benbow who tried another curler from the

edge of the area, but Jupp was able to save.

A minute later a Benbow pass picked out Billingham. He found sub Jordan Fitzpatrick, who in turn, laid it off to Geddes who drove wide. In the 87th minute, a pass from Chris Henry led to Elliot Bailey being tripped by Bennett inside the box.

Ngoyi sent Coleman the wrong way from the spot but the hosts went closest to another goal with a long kick by Coleman headed on by Billingham towards Benbow.

His shot from a tight angle was blocked by Jupp at his near post at the expense of a corner. From the flag-kick, Bennett sent a free header past the post.

Lions fall again at Yorkshire last hurdle

Stourbridge Lions 8 Selby 36

THE Lions fell at the last hurdle for a second successive year in their bid to reach Twickenham.

The double Midlands Senior Vase winners failed last year against Watlington-Dearne. This time Yorkshire opponents Selby saw them off.

One-way first-half traffic saw Lions' defence and poor Selby place-kicking keep the score to 17-3 at half-time.

Home points were from a Tom Mitchell penalty.

Lions mounted a second-half comeback with a fine try from a 10-metre line-out catch and drive by captain Stuart Doolittle. That cut the deficit to nine points and gave the home crowd something to shout about.

The crucial moment came soon afterwards as Lions pressed for the line with a series of diving rucks.

Gap

Unfortunately the ball was turned over 10 metres out and Selby went the length of the pitch in three phases to score another try.

A potential two-point gap had become 14.

Selby cut loose in the last 20 minutes to add two converted tries and book their place in the national final at Twickenham.

Now the Lions, currently third in Midlands Three West (North) will seek to push their promotion prospects when they travel to Edwardians at the weekend.

Stourbridge are six points behind second-placed Newcastle (Staffs) but have a game in hand and also have to play their rivals at home in their penultimate game on April 20.

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GOALS BOOST HOPE OF PLAY-OFFS PLACE

Redditch 0 Stourbridge 4

THE GLASSBOYS took another big step towards booking their place in the end of season play-offs as they ran out comfortable winners against 10-man Redditch United.

The home team had goalkeeper Daniel Platt sent off midway through the first period of this Evo-Stik Southern Premier encounter on Easter Monday.

The struggling hosts actually shaded a fairly nondescript opening 20 minutes as both sides took some time to settle.

Stourbridge threatened in the opening minute as a Jordan Fitzpatrick pass deflected into the path of Luke Benbow but his shot from a tight angle was saved. Fifteen minutes later, ex-Redditch keeper Dean Coleman made a comfortable save from a 20-yard Ashley Sammons free-kick.

On 24 minutes, a long ball forward from Paul McCone produced a weak back-header from Reds defender Asa Charlton. It saw Benbow reach the ball inside the box ahead of Platt, who upended the top scorer for a penalty and red card.

Battled

Substitute keeper Bradley Catlow came on in place of defender Hosane Gabbidon but Sean Geddes converted.

United battled, but in the 33rd minute a corner from Geddes flicked off the top of Nathan Bennett's head to Ben Mackey. His cross-shot was turned in by Benbow.

Five minutes later neat build-up saw Ben Billingham combine with Benbow. As the ball was played into the middle, a back-heel from Fitzpatrick let Mackey tuck away a low shot.

A pass from Jamie Oliver was taken down by Leon Broadhurst whose low cross was taken by Benbow to hit a first time shot just past the

Stourbridge FC

upright. On the stroke of half-time, Geddes rolled a free-kick into Mackey and he laid a short pass off to Benbow whose back-heel set up Fitzpatrick, whose shot was blocked well by Callum Flanagan.

A second half about damage limitation saw the hosts leave one up front.

The Glassboys took their foot off the pedal a little, but on 64 minutes Benbow headed the ball across to Mackey, who dragged a 20-yard shot wide.

Five minutes later, Mackey notched his second goal as Oliver played a long pass forward looking for Mackey on the left-hand edge of the box.

Substitute keeper Catlow was tempted off his line and Mackey managed to bring the ball under control before cleverly lifting the ball over the stranded shot-stopper and into the empty net.

Benbow went close to making it five on 75 minutes as he wriggled his way to the right-hand edge of the box before hitting a fierce strike into the side-netting.

However, there were no further goals as Stourbridge were able to ring the changes late on.



The pivotal moment as keeper Daniel Platt brings down Luke Benbow to collect a red card and concede a penalty



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